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Wildlife Institute of India

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ON THE FAUNA



AND MICROFLORA



OF THE INDIAN HIMALAYAN REGION



BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE FAUNA AND MICROFLORA OF THE INDIAN HIMALAYAN REGION

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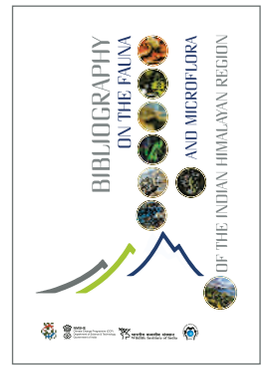
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Chapter photos
Mammal: WII Camera Trap image, Naitik G. Patel; Bird: Naitik G. Patel

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WILDLIFE AND
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The Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Centre at the Wildlife Institute of India, set up in September 1997, is part of the ENVIS setup of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. It deals with general matters concerning 'wildlife' and specifically those related to 'Protected Area.' It's objectives are to:

- Build up information storage: retrieval and dissemination capabilities in subject areas related to wildlife science.
- Establish linkages with all information sources in wildlife conservation and management in the country and abroad for increasing the information content.
- Respond to user queries by supplying substantive information in the form of published reports, documents, extracts, research papers and other unpublished and analyzed information as far as possible.
- Maintain links with other ENVIS Centers with the ultimate objectives of identification of data and knowledge gaps in specified subject areas and take action towards filling these gaps Publish bulletins on the thematic areas.
- Publish bulletins on the thematic focus areas.

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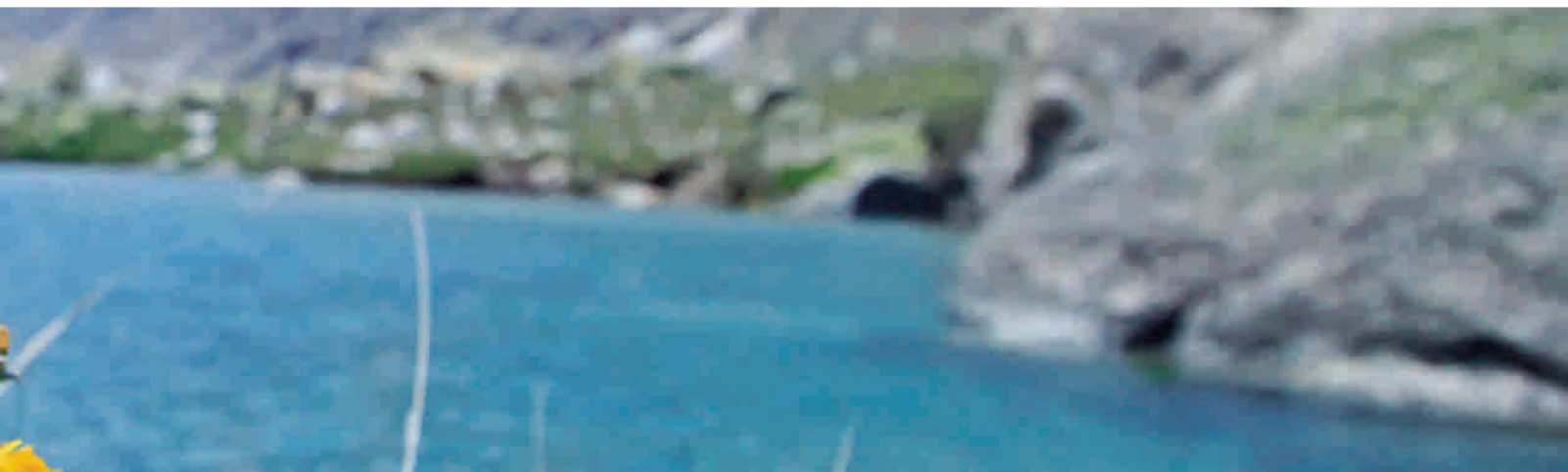
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Director's Note

There is an increasing demand for scientific information on the state of environment particularly biodiversity in different regions of the world. While information is scanty for poorly studied regions, there is substantial information for some regions but most of it is not readily available as either it is widely scattered or largely unpublished. In such situations, it is very difficult for a user to find the required information on a given subject or topic in the absence of proper documentation or database. In today's world, quick and easy access to correct information is gaining momentum for which various databases are being maintained.

The Himalayan region has been less studied when compared to many other mountain ecosystems in the world. With the emerging threat of climate change and its impacts on the ecology and environment of the Himalaya, there have been efforts in recent times to gather scientific information on various aspects, most importantly on biodiversity. Much of the climate change investigations around the world have revealed that there are shifts in distribution range of species or changes in life history strategies and/or behaviour. While baseline status for species/taxa are being established through surveys and studies in the recent past, consequences of climate change impacts on species could be better understood from historical information that presently lies scattered in various journals, books, expedition reports and gazetteers. In this context, bibliographical databases are of immense value.

Under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE), the Wildlife Institute of India has been assigned the responsibilities for operating the Task Force on Fauna and Micro flora by the Department of Science and Technology. The project personnel of WII NMSHE team under the supervision of concerned faculty have carried out the mammoth task of conducting literature survey on faunal and micro floral groups/taxa and have prepared the state of knowledge report, based on over 4,500 references. I appreciate the efforts of the WII Library and Documentation Centre who had compiled this bibliography and the searchable database.

This ENVIS bulletin on the 'Bibliography of the Fauna and Micro Flora of the Indian Himalayan Region' will be of immense use to students, researchers, scientists, wildlife managers, naturalists, conservationists and policy makers, who are interested in the conservation of biodiversity in the Indian Himalayan Region.

19 September, 2016
Dehradun

V.B. Mathur
Director,
WII and Project Leader,
ENVIS Centre, WII





Foreword

I am delighted to write these words for this important and very useful publication for all those who have interest in the wildlife of the Himalaya and in the Himalaya itself.

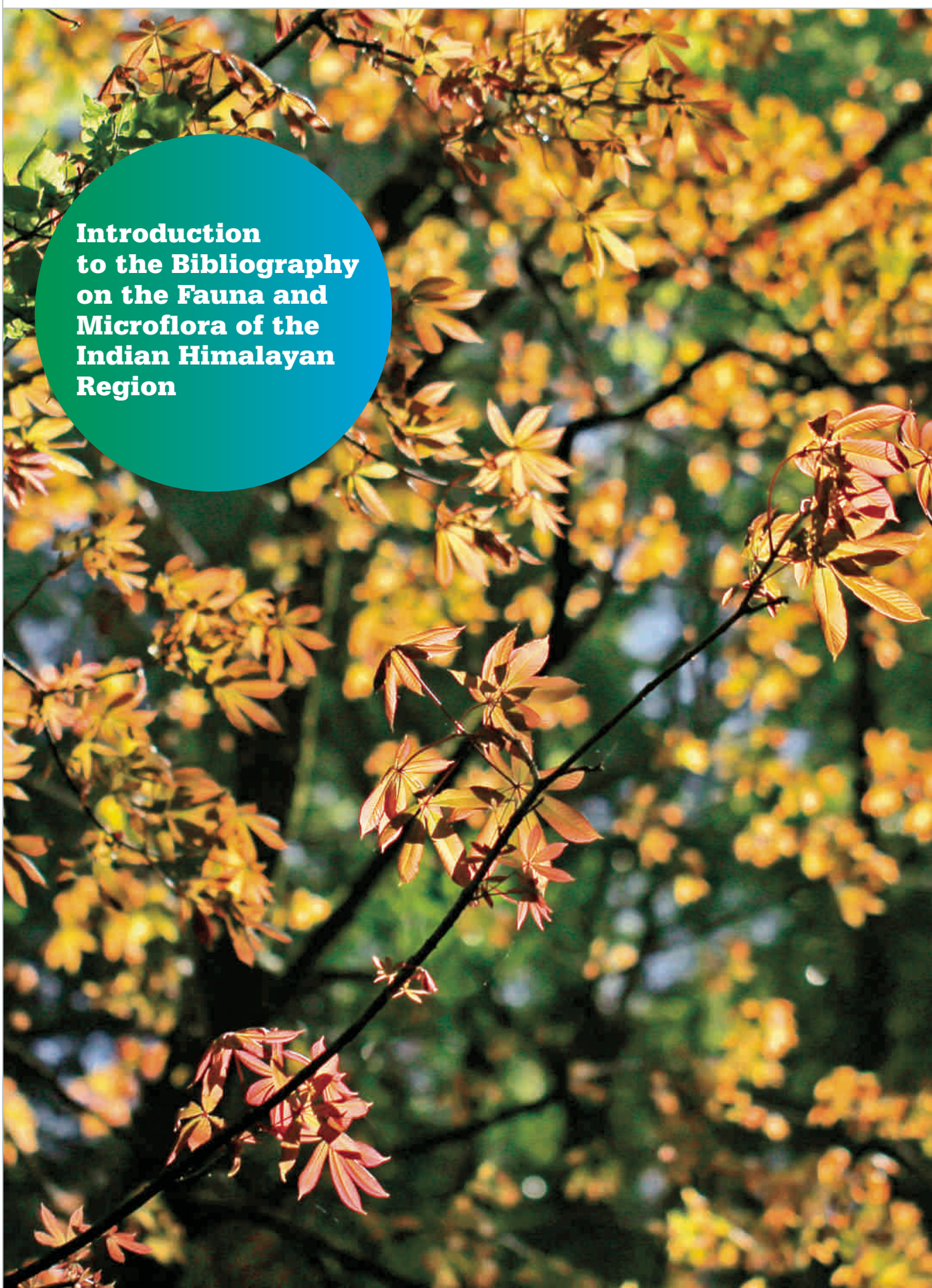
The Himalayan mountain range along with its exceptionally beautiful wilderness areas, encompasses wildlife habitats that are home to a wide array of floral and faunal species. I have been immensely interested in learning about the mountain fauna and their conservation for over six decades now. Till the 1970s, information on the wildlife of the Himalaya were confined to a few books, expedition reports and gazetteers, but a significant amount of information were confined to out of print personal records or diaries maintained by hunters, naturalists, explorers, and mountaineers and remained largely inaccessible. By the late 1970s, some information on species accounts, distribution, status, natural history information and field guides on the mammals, birds, flowers, trees and insects, were available from the pioneering works of George Schaller, S.H. Prater, Salim Ali, and Wynter Blyth, and Records of the Zoological and Botanical Surveys of India.

Since mid 1980s, research on the fauna of the Indian Himalayan Region had grown steadily, leading to a wealth of information that has been generated from different regions of the Himalaya. Most importantly, research on herpetofauna, fish and invertebrates have steadily grown in the last few decades. This ENVIS Bulletin on the bibiliography on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region contains over 4,500 references across eight faunal/micro-floral taxa/groups. Apart from this hard copy publication, the Wildlife Institute of India has brought out a CD with a specially designed database, for this bibliography.

I am sure that this publication that includes compilation of references of pioneering works as early as 1785, would now be within reach of every user because of this bibliography. I congratulate the Wildlife Institute of India for bringing out this publication and hope that this would encourage young biologists and field managers to document and publish their significant observations on the wildlife of the Himalaya and what is even more important, to inspire future generations to trek and travel in this magnificent terrain, which for its biotic richness has no parallel in the world.

16 September, 2016
New Delhi

Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh
Former Additional Secretary, MoEF, New Delhi
& Director of Wildlife Presentation, India



Introduction to the Bibliography on the Fauna and Microflora of the Indian Himalayan Region

01

Introduction to the Bibliography on the Fauna and Microflora of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

In recent years, there has been a demand for information on all spheres of life and such demand is growing exponentially. The likely impacts on global environment and biodiversity due to climate change and anthropogenic pressures is one such field for which information is required to plan for the future, most importantly for decision making to balance development and conservation priorities. It is often very difficult to find the required information or literature on a particular topic in the absence of proper documentation particularly when the information is either scarce or widely scattered. Further, the literature doubling is taking place at an unabated pace, in certain fields and such growth is less than 6 to 8 years.

The effects of climate change are pronounced in places such as the Himalaya, where the network of snow-clad mountains, ice-peaks, high intensity drainage and precipitation characterises the bio-social landscape. Evidence suggests that responses of species to impacts of climate change are inter-alia manifested in changes in phenology, earlier onset of spring, migration, and lengthening of growing seasons. Similarly, humans are affected by declines in health, increased population movement, unforeseen changes in food productivity, obstacles to development, and progressive environmental damage. Realizing the need for developing science based action plans to address both the existing as well as emerging threats of climate change in the fragile mountain ecosystems of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) has been conceived and is expected to offer practical adaptation strategies based on inputs from various reputed Institutions. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has been assigned the responsibilities for operating the Task Force on Fauna and Microflora by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The goal of this project is to: Develop strategies to mitigate climate change effects on wild animal species and ecosystems in the IHR. The thematic areas identified under the research project area (A) Terrestrial System, (B) Aquatic System, (C) Human Ecology, and (D) Spatial Ecology, and include assessments of: (a) animal species/communities diversity, distribution, abundance (b) wildlife habitats, ecosystems, and ecosystem services; (c) anthropogenic and climate change impacts on wildlife and ecosystems through scenario building and visualization; (d) vulnerability of species / habitats to climate change; and prioritization of species/taxa and sites for monitoring.

When compared to other mountain systems of the world, the amount of literature or documented knowledge on the biodiversity of the Himalaya is not much. While baseline status for species/taxa are being established through surveys and studies in the recent past, consequences of climate change impacts on species could be better understood from historical information that presently lies scattered in various journals, books, expedition reports and gazetteers. In such a situation, even an expert will be able to access and acquaint with only a small fraction of available literature. To overcome this major constraint, the subject specialists and information scientists were able to find means of 'bibliographies' and 'databases' respectively.

Keeping the above in view, this 'Bibliography on Fauna and Microflora of the Indian Himalayan region' has been compiled as part of this project. These references have beene categorised based on the scope of the articles and placed them under ten main taxa/group viz., Mammals, Birds, Herpetofauna, Fish, Butterflies, Odonates, Soil Nematodes, Soil Bacteria, Soil fungi and Lichen.

WINISIS software was used for compilation of this bibliography and this includes publications from 1775 to 2016. However, majority of the references are of the period after 1900. The geographical coverage of the database as given in the title is restricted to the IHR i.e., Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal



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Pradesh and West Bengal (northern hill districts only). The computerized database contains 4,674 references. Each reference is marked with serial number for retrieval purpose. For quick retrieval of information, author and publication year index are appended for each taxa.

Bibliometric Analyses

The bibliographic output was subjected to the following bibliometric analysis and order to understand the chronological development, Geographical area (State wise) distribution, Subject wise distribution, collaborative pattern of authorship and number of research workers in particular taxa.

Of the total 4,674 references, 4,031 pertain to fauna while the remaining 643 deal with microflora. Maximum numbers of publications are on birds followed by fishes and mammals.

Table 1.1 Taxa-wise distribution of literature on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region

S.No.	Taxa	Number of References
	A. Fauna	
1	Mammal	639
2	Bird	1,567
3	Herpetofauna	394
4	Fish	812
5	Butterflies	276
6	Odonates	135
7	Soil nematodes	208
	B. Micro Flora	
1	Soil Bacteria	218
2	Lichens	310
3	Soil Fungi	115
	Total	**643**
	Total (A+B)	**4,674**

The trend in Chronological development of literature has been shown by an interval of ten years' period in the following Figure 1.1. The numbers of publications before 1900 are 203 only. This Table also reveals that 1,127 references has been published from 2001-2010.

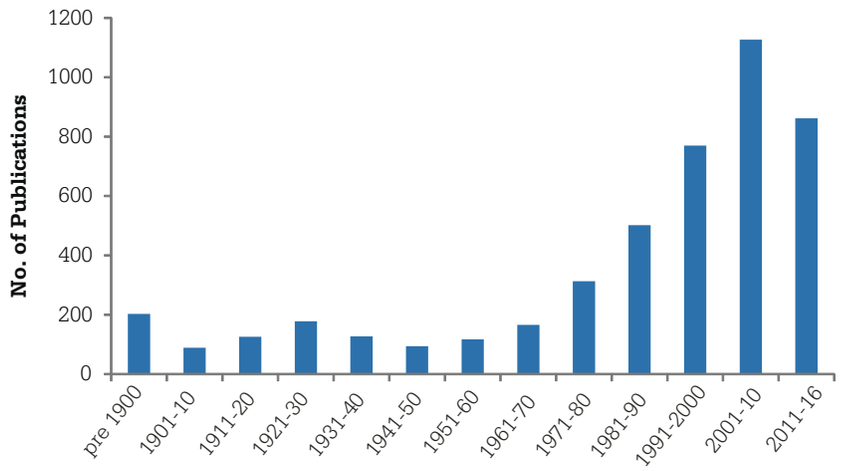


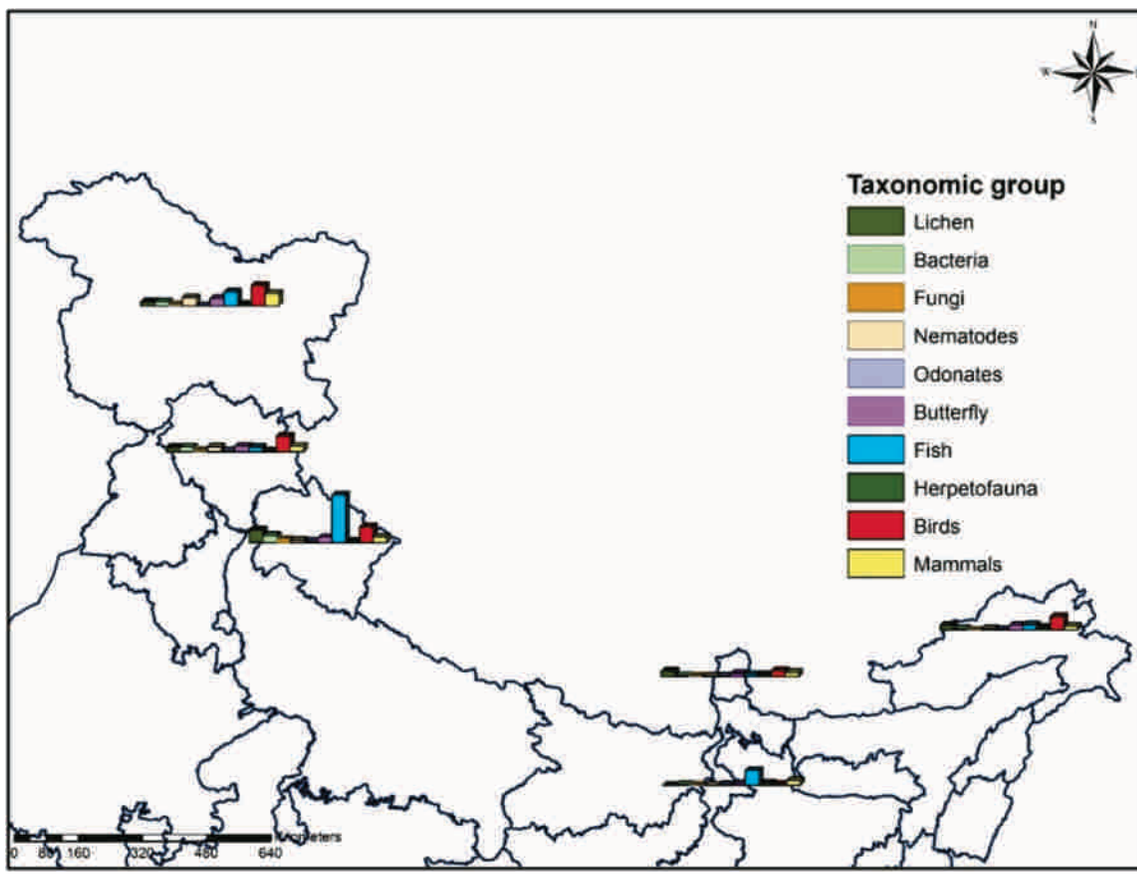
Figure 1.1 Temporal distribution of literature on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region

The State wise distribution of literature shows that maximum number of studies have been carried out in Uttarakhand followed by Jammu and Kashmir. About 1,224 numbers of publications are in general to the Himalayan region.

Table 1.2 State-wise distribution of literature on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region

	Lichen	Bacteria	Fungi	Nematodes	Odonates	Butterfly	Fish	Herpetofauna	Birds	Mammals	Total
State											
Jammu and Kashmir	54	50	19	103	1	90	172	22	252	151	914
Himachal Pradesh	54	58	21	61	12	72	56	5	193	70	602
Uttarakhand	156	86	45	26	19	64	582	19	194	68	1259
Sikkim	65	12	8	5	3	35	25	23	73	46	295
Arunachal Pradesh	59	12	1	14	7	54	63	32	164	44	450
West Bengal	0	7	3	0	5	0	184	29	10	60	298
General	0	0	18	0	88	0	0	249	669	200	1224

Figure 1.2 State-wise distribution of literature on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region



We have categorized the bibliography based on the scope of the article and placed them under 7 broad subject headings (Ecology, Distribution, Taxonomy, Molecular biology, Climate change, Conservation and Others). Among these Subjects Ecology dominates the database.

Table 1.3 Subject-wise distribution of literature on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region

	Lichens	Bacteria	Fungi	Nematodes	Odonates	Butterflies	Fishes	Herpetofauna	Birds	Mammals	Total
Subject											
Ecology	19	27	62	141	7	151	314	79	581	256	1637
Distribution	139	114	0	0	0	351	206	182	417	74	1483
Taxonomy	70	97	43	75	128	263	215	157	209	46	1303
Molecular biology	3	19	0	37	0	0	34	5	8	14	120
Climate change	16	0	0	1	0	2	10	0	3	6	38
Conservation	0	3	0	0	4	15	85	11	174	97	389
Others	65	0	10	12	0	0	218	97	1050	146	1598

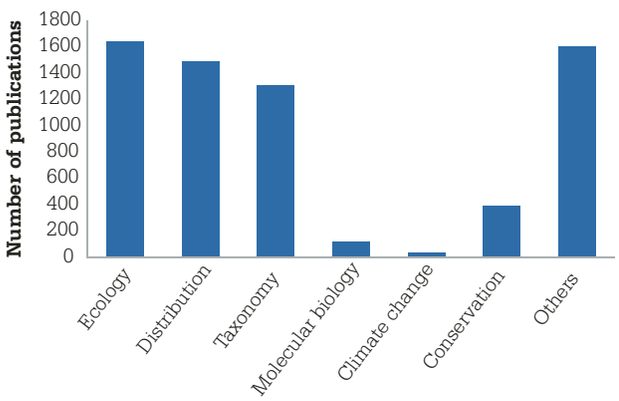


Figure 1.3 Subject-wise distribution of literature on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region

Table 1.4 shows the number of authors in the publications on each taxa. About four authors were involved in each publication on Bacteria.

Table 1.4 Number of authors in the publications on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region

S.No.	Taxa	No. of References	Total no. of Authors	Authors/ publications
1	Bacteria	218	859	3.9
2	Birds	1,567	2,297	1.5
3	Butterfly	276	455	1.6
4	Fish	812	1,740	2.1
5	Herpetofauna	394	742	1.9
6	Lichen	310	807	2.6
7	Mammals	639	1,411	2.2

S.No.	Taxa	No. of References	Total no. of Authors	Authors/ publications
8	Nematodes	208	422	2.0
9	Odonates	135	186	1.4
10	Soil fungi	115	333	2.9
	Total	**4,674**	**9,252**	**2.0**

The authorship ranged from single author to 25 authors for a single publication. Of the 4,674 references, only 2,216 were published in multiple authorships. It is observed that the overall percentage of single authors and multiple authors were 52.6% and 47.4% respectively. While the percentage of single authors paper were maximum (73.9%) for birds, the percentage of multiple authors were high for bacteria (93.6%).

Table 1.5 Authorship patterns in the publications on the fauna and micro flora of the Indian Himalayan Region

S.No.	Taxa	Single authorship (%)	Multiple authorship (%)	Total
1	Bacteria	14 (6.4)	204 (93.6)	218
2	Birds	1,158 (73.9)	409 (26.1)	1,567
3	Butterflies	166 (60.1)	110 (39.9)	276
4	Fishes	353 (43.5)	459 (56.5)	812
5	Herpetofauna	226 (57.4)	168 (42.6)	394
6	Lichens	64 (20.6)	246 (79.4)	310
7	Mammals	309 (48.4)	330 (51.6)	639
8	Nematodes	64 (30.8)	144 (69.2)	208
9	Odonates	93 (68.9)	42 (31.1)	135
10	Soil fungi	11 (9.6)	104 (90.4)	115
	Total	**2,458 (52.6)**	**2,216(47.4)**	**4,674**

For the convenience of the user, this bibliography is also available in database form at the Wildlife Institute of India, Library and Documentation Centre. It is hoped that providing information both in traditional printed form as well as through machine readable database will be very useful and act as a ready reference to both professional and amateur wildlife ecologists and protected area managers, interested in the IHR. We would also like to add that this database is not complete. While all possible efforts have been made to cite the references as accurately as possible, it is probable that some mistakes may have remained, largely owing to the compilation of the majority of references from secondary sources. We would be grateful if such mistakes are brought to our notice for correction and continuous updation of this database.

This bibliography is also distributed in machine readable form (CD) along with user friendly search engine. We hope that availability of this bibliography in Print/CD form will immensely help students, teachers, biologists, scientists, wildlife managers, naturalists, conservationists, policy makers and other users.

Acknowledgements

This study is a component of the project 'National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem' (NMSHE) supported by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) (Grant no: DST/SPLICE/CCP/NMSHE/TF-2/WII/2014[G] dated 26.08.2014). Special mentions are required for the facilities provided by the Director of CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. We thank fully acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Punyasloke Bhadury of Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Kolkata to prepare the bibliography of soil becteria of the Indian Himalayan Region. In Wildlife Institute of India, contributions of Dr. Samrat Mondol (Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology) In microflora Bibliography preparation is also acknowledged. We thank the entire team of WII NMSHE Project who had painstakingly conducted literature review and compiled the bibliography. Apart from the authors, other NMSHE team members namely Malvika Pandey, Neha Aswal and Project Interns contributed substantially for this compilation.







Mammals of the Indian Himalayan Region



02

Bibliography on the Mammals of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

Of the 428 mammalian species reported across India (Sharma et al., 2015), about 291 species (39 families, 13 orders) have been recorded from the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). A further breakdown of the list reveals that 40 of these species are known from the Indian trans-Himalaya; 77 from the north-west Himalaya, 102 from the western Himalaya, and 172 from the eastern Himalaya (Sharma et al., 2015). Notable mammalian species of the region, and ones of conservation concern include the Kashmir markhor (*Capra falconeri*), Asiatic ibex (*Capra sibirica*), Kashmir stag or hangul (*Cervus elaphus hanglu*), Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*), Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*), and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) from the western Himalaya. The Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*), Slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*), Eastern hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock leukonedys*), Western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*) Arunachal macaque (*Macaca munzala*), Black musk deer (*Moschus fuscus*), Leaf deer (*Muntiacus putaoensis*), Takin (*Budercos taxicolor*), Red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), Sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), and Golden cat (*Catapuma temmincki*) occur in the eastern Himalaya (Macdonald, 2001, Sathyakumar and Bashir 2010, Choudhury 2015).

The earliest publication on mammals of the IHR dates back to 1841. Information on mammals of the northwestern and western Himalaya are higher when compared to the eastern Himalaya. This included detailed investigations or doctoral studies and short-term studies on species ecology and behavior and the remaining were largely status surveys (Agarwal et al. 1998, Sathyakumar and Bhatnagar 2002, Sathyakumar and Bashir 2010). In the eastern Himalaya status surveys and short term studies on mammals have been carried out (Shah, 1994; Kakati, 1996; Datta, 2003; Datta et. al. 2008a, 2008b; Kumar et. al., 2003; Mishra et. al. 2006, Choudhury 2015).

Methods

Online research databases were searched using the search terms "Himalaya" and name of the six Himalayan States such as "Jammu and Kashmir", "Himachal Pradesh", "Uttarakhand", "Sikkim", "Arunachal Pradesh" and "West Bengal". All the information was entered in a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and arranged alphabetically to remove any duplication. All the analyses were carried out in Microsoft Excel to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasised areas and the knowledge gap.

Results and Discussion

The bibliography on mammalian fauna of the IHR includes 639 unique entries covering a period of nearly two centuries, starting from 1841 to 2016. We categorized the articles in three distinct ways: A) The first category was based on the regions of six Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal-Darjeeling and Kalimpung district and Arunachal Pradesh) where the studies were carried out. B) The second category was based on their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped in 10-year intervals from 1840 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The third category was based on the subject focus of the research; the publications were categorized based on the broad subjects (ecology and behaviour, taxonomy, evolution, conservation and climate change impact) at which the research was carried out. Articles were also categorized based on the mammal groups which were the object of research in the various publications, and this was compared with the subjects of each paper to better understand past research trends, and predict future ones.



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Bhavya Iyer Krishnendu Mondal,
Tapajit Bhattacharya and
Sambandam Sathyakumar

Geographical Distribution of Publications:

Publications have been categorized based on the state or states of focus. The most amount of research has been carried out in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Ladakh region (Table 2.1). This is followed by West Bengal (northern hill districts), Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in that order. Other papers were more broadly focused and could not be classified.

Table 2.1 State wise distribution of publications

States	Number of Publications
Jammu and Kashmir	151
Himachal Pradesh	70
Uttarakhand	68
Sikkim	46
West Bengal	60
Arunachal Pradesh	44
Others	200

Temporal Pattern of Publications

Publications that were accessed date from the year 1841 to 2016. The most number of publications so far was in the 2001-2010 decade, with 193 publications, though it is likely that the 2011-2020 period will exceed this number by the end of the decade, as there are already 146 publications in the five-year period from 2011 to 2016 (Fig. 2.1). A glance at the publications since 1841 shows that most of the papers in the 19th century (16 publications) were general descriptions of fauna and flora of an area, or notes on new species or taxonomic families. In the first half of the 20th century (1901-1950), out of 30 publications, a majority are about geographic distributions or on the fauna of different areas. About a third of these describe new species. The second half of the 20th century shows a marked increase in research (207 publications) which begin to broaden in scope from just geography and taxonomy to behaviour, ecology, conservation, and evolution. Finally, the 21st century has the greatest amount of literature published and available on the IHR so far, with 341 publications. Papers on conservation surpass the number of papers on geography and distribution. There are few papers on taxonomy, and instead many more on ecology and behaviour, and a few on climate change.

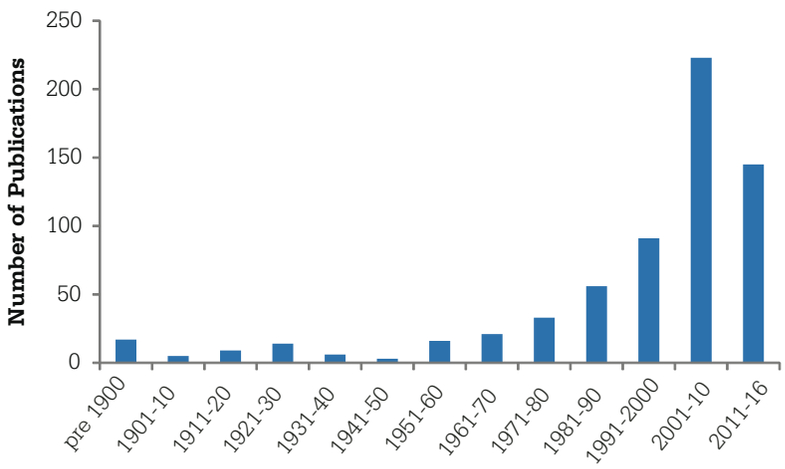


Figure 2.1 Temporal pattern of publications on mammalian fauna of the Indian Himalayan Region

Publications by subject

Publications have been classified based on subject focus – Ecology, Behaviour, Geography, Taxonomy, Genetics and Evolution, Conservation, Climate Change, and General. Some of these topics are further sub-divided. The highest

numbers of publications were on ecology (232) – feeding, habitat, and other (which includes status surveys, population estimation, community and general ecology) (Fig. 2.2). Conservation of species with 97 publications is the second most studied topic. A majority of these are on the status and conservation of various endangered species such as the snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Tibetan kiang (*Equus kiang*), Kashmir stag (*Cervus elaphus hanglu*), Tibetan argali (*Ovis ammon hodgsoni*) and others. The remaining publications pertain to human-wildlife conflict and its mitigation which included Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), common leopard (*Panthera pardus*), snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Tibetan wolf (*Canis lupus chanko*), and rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*). There were less number of publications on genetics and evolution (14) and climate change (6). Many papers also dealt with geography (74) either on range of a species or the general fauna of a region.

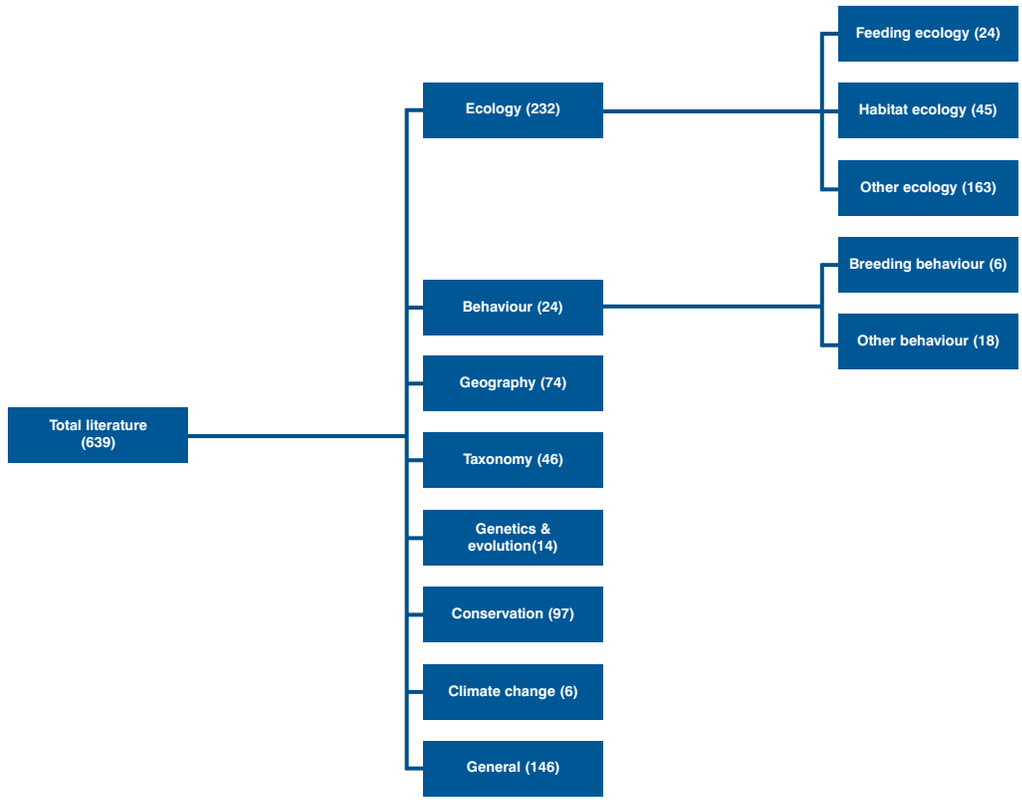


Figure 2.2 Number of publications on mammals of the Indian Himalayan Region in different subject categories

Research Gaps and Future Priorities

Research on mammals of the IHR has in the past, focused mostly on a few specific topics – abundance, occupancy, range use, distribution, and conservation status. Studies on human-wildlife interactions – especially negative interactions, or conflict – have increased with time, as have these interactions. However, few papers address mitigation of this conflict, but speak of it only as a reason for the decline of a particular species, and the need for its conservation (Table 2.2).

In the future, research on mitigating such conflict will be of great importance, as increasing human population puts further pressure on wildlife and their habitats. Few studies have been carried out on evolution, and use of molecular phylogeny will further research on evolution as well as taxonomy. Studies into ecological aspects such as behaviour, inter-species dynamics (or community ecology on a macro level) and adaptations of wildlife – especially megafauna – to human disturbance will be of increasing importance, and will address several research gaps.

Climate change has been severely understudied in mammal species, perhaps because they do not make good

indicator species to study the phenomenon. However, research can be carried out to study not just the effects of climate change on wildlife, but also the adaptations and either species diversification or extinction caused by climate change. Hence, going forward, research on species behaviour will be of great importance as they will be a part of studies on a variety of topics, from climate change to conservation as well as ecology.

Table 2.2 The key past and future research priorities based on the current assessment

Subject Area	Key past research priorities	Research Gap and future priorities
Ecology and Behaviour	Abundance Occupancy Range use Habitat ecology	Behaviour and behavioural ecology Inter-species dynamics Adaptations to human interference and anthropogenic pressure
Geography	Distribution	
Taxonomy	Species and family descriptions	Molecular phylogeny
Evolution	Evolutionary origin	
Conservation	Conservation Status Human-wildlife Conflict	Mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict Conservation strategies Integrating technology and conservation
Climate change	Effects of climate change on habitat	Effect of anthropogenic climate change on distribution, ecology, behaviour of species Adaptation, diversification or extinction of species due to climate change

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Birds of the Indian Himalayan Region

03

Bibliography on the Birds of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is bestowed with a very rich and diverse avian assemblage. Of the 1313+ bird species found in India (Parveen et al. 2016), around 900 are found in the Himalaya. Roughly 450 of these breed in the IHR. As far as regional endemism is concerned, there are 11 endemic birds in the western Himalaya. These species include the Cheer pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) and the Western tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*). The western Himalayan region has also been designated by Birdlife International as an Endemic Bird Area (EBA No., 128), and contains 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) (Islam and Rahmani, 2004). The eastern Himalayan region, also an EBA, is one of the most diverse regions in the world in terms of bird diversity (Stattersfield et al., 1998). The eastern Himalayan region has the presence of 22 restricted-range bird species, 19 of which being endemic just to this region (Stattersfield et al., 1998; Jathar and Rahmani, 2006). Examples include that of the Chestnut-breasted partridge (*Arborophila mandellii*), Rusty-throated wren babbler (Spelaeornis badeigularis), White-throated tit (*Aegithalos niveogularis*), and Orange bullfinch (*Pyrrhula aurantiaca*) (Stattersfield, 1998). In terms of globally threatened bird species in Asia, this region represents one of their largest concentrations (Acharya and Vijayan, 2010).

The scientific literature on birds of South Asia is available dating back to 17th Century. A huge compilation of the available literature on birds of South Asia is now available in the web in the form of "Bibliography of South Asian Ornithology - compiled by Aasheesh Pittie" (Pittie 2011). However, information on ornithological studies in the Indian Himalayan Region was not available on a single platform. This article comprises the information on available scientific literature on avifauna of the Indian Himalayan Region, particularly the trend of research with time and the knowledge gap.

Methods

The database of "Bibliography of South Asian Ornithology - compiled by Aasheesh Pittie" (Pittie 2011) was searched using the search terms "Himalaya" and name of the six Himalayan States such as "Jammu and Kashmir", "Himachal Pradesh", "Uttarakhand", "Sikkim", "Arunachal Pradesh" and "West Bengal". Other database and journals, such as Conservation Science, Tigerpaper, Cheetal, The Journal of Threatened Taxa, The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, etc., were also searched from relevant literature. All the information was entered in a MS Excel spreadsheet and arranged alphabetically to remove any duplication. All the analyses were carried out in MS Excel to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasised areas and the knowledge gap.

Results and Discussion

The bibliography on avifauna of Indian Himalayan Region includes 1567 unique entries covering a period of almost two centuries, starting from 1833 to 2016. We categorized the articles in three distinct ways: A) The first category was based on parts of six Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal – Darjeeling and Kalimpong district – and Arunachal Pradesh) where the studies were carried out. B) The second category was based on their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped in 10-year intervals from 1830 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The third category was based on the subject focus of the research; the publications were categorized based on the broad subjects (ecology and behaviour, geography, taxonomy, evolution, conservation and climate change impact) on which the research was carried out.

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Geographical Distribution of Publications

Publications have been classified according to the region or state where most of the research work was carried out. A majority of publications were based on the work done in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (252 publications) – mostly in the Ladakh region. This is followed by Uttarakhand (194), then Himachal Pradesh (193) and Arunachal Pradesh (157) (Table 3.1). Other publications could not be classified region-wise as they dealt with a large number of states, or the entire country, or no state was specified.

Table 3.1 State wise distribution of publications

States	Number of Publications
Jammu and Kashmir	252
Himachal Pradesh	193
Uttarakhand	194
Sikkim	73
West Bengal	10
Arunachal Pradesh	164
Others	681

Temporal Pattern of Publications

Publications dated from 1834 to 2016. Publications from the 19th century and early 20th century, were mostly descriptions of existing and new species, along with taxonomy, feeding and breeding habits, etc. Later this widens to include geographical range, ecology, and more recently, conservation. The most number of publications was in the 1991-2000 decade, with 314 publications, shortly followed by the following decade, 2001-2010, with 299 publications (Fig. 3.1). The 2011-2016 decade is not being considered in analysis as the decade is not yet complete, though it is projected to surpass the previous decades in terms of number of publications.

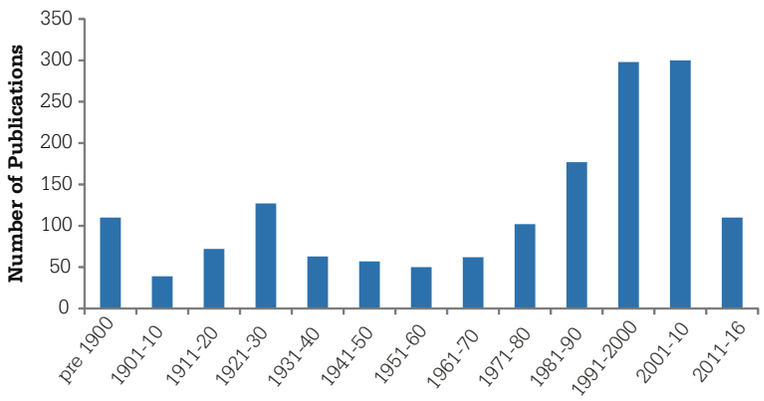


Figure 3.1 Temporal pattern of publications on avifauna of Indian Himalayan Region

Publications by subject

Publication were categorised according to broad topics, which were further sub-divided. A majority of publications which had a specific topic dealt with ecology and behaviour, followed by distribution, then taxonomy. Publications on Ecology mostly focused on breeding ecology (185 papers), or general biology, with some on breeding and foraging ecology (37 each). Publications dealing with bird behaviour were similarly mostly focused on breeding behaviour (141 papers) (Fig. 3.2). Very few papers were on evolution (8), and only 3 on climate change. With climate change and its effects on birds becoming increasingly relevant, and with the status of birds as an indicator of climate change, this topic is projected to become a focus of research in the future. Publication on conservation (174 papers) were mostly on pheasants, and a majority of those were on habitat conservation, as well as reintroduction.

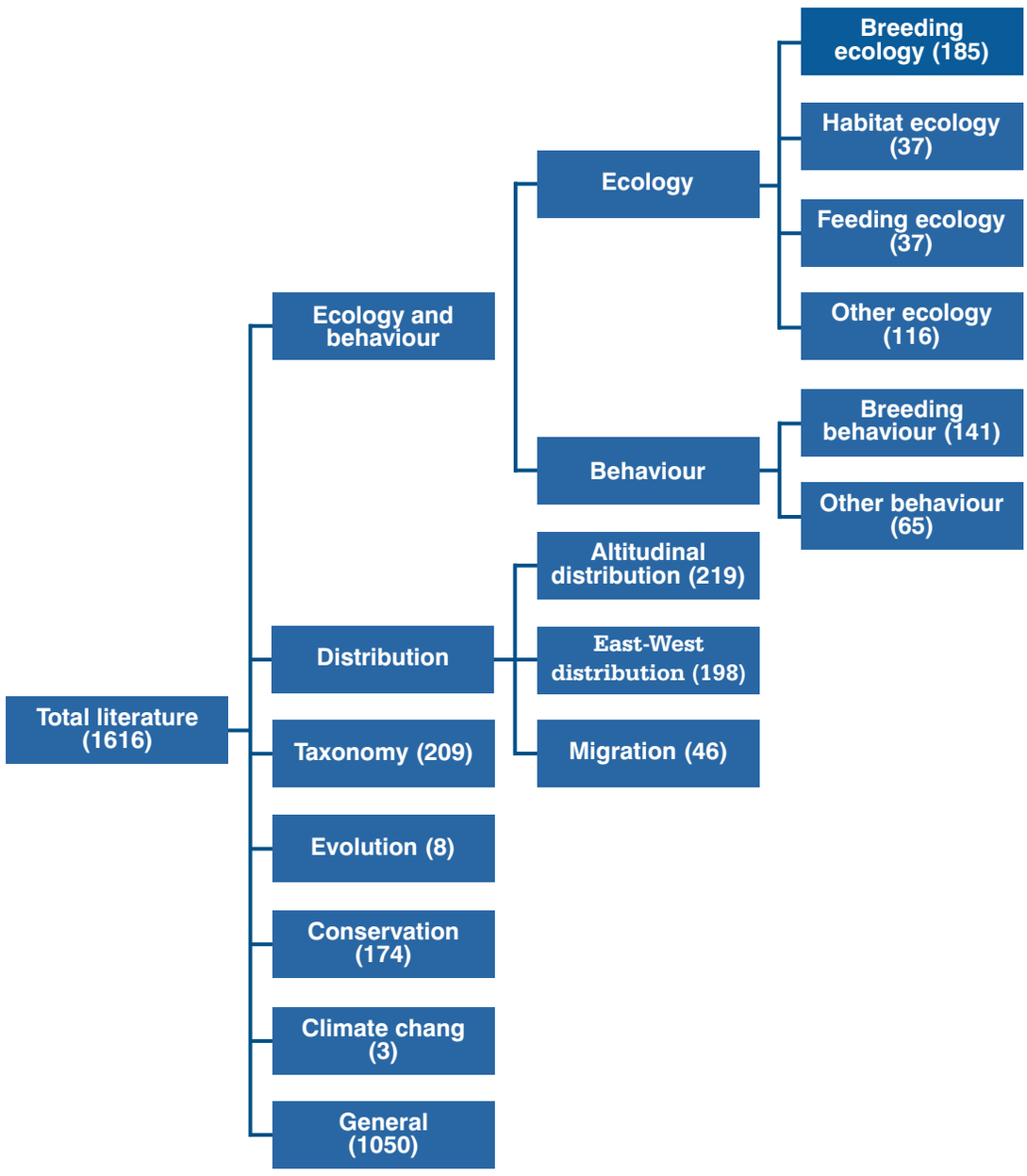


Figure 3.2 Number of publications on birds of the Indian Himalayan Region in different subject categories

Research Gaps and Future Priorities

The focus of bird research in the IHR has been on been mostly nesting and breeding ecology, distribution and migration patterns, habitat use, descriptions of species, and conservation of the more vulnerable species (pheasant, black-necked storks, etc) (Table 3.2). Research on East-West distribution and Altitudinal migration due to climate change, multi-species group dynamics, speciation, molecular phylogeny, and habitat conservation will fill up gaps in current knowledge. We feel that future priorities of research will be effects of climate change on distribution, ecology, behaviour, and climate change-caused adaptation and diversification or extinction of species

Table 3.2 The key past and future research priorities based on the current assessment

Subject Area	Key past research priorities	Research Gap and future priorities
Ecology and Behaviour	Distribution Nesting and breeding behaviour	East-West Distribution Feeding Habits
	Migration patterns	Behaviour
	Range and habitat use	Multi-species group dynamics
Taxonomy	Descriptions of species	Sub-species identification
		Splitting of species into sub-species or
		separate species across East-West range Molecular Phylogeny
Evolution	Adaptive radiation	Evolution and diversification of other bird groups
	Evolution of ecological differences in Old-World leaf warblers	
Conservation	Pheasant conservation	Habitat conservation
	Reintroduction	Large-scale conservation
Climate change	Pliocene climate-change causing diversification	Further proof of range-shifts in birds due to change in climate
		Effect of anthropogenic climate change on distribution, ecology, behaviour of species
	Increase in plains-birds in hilly regions	Adaptation, diversification or extinction of species due to climate change

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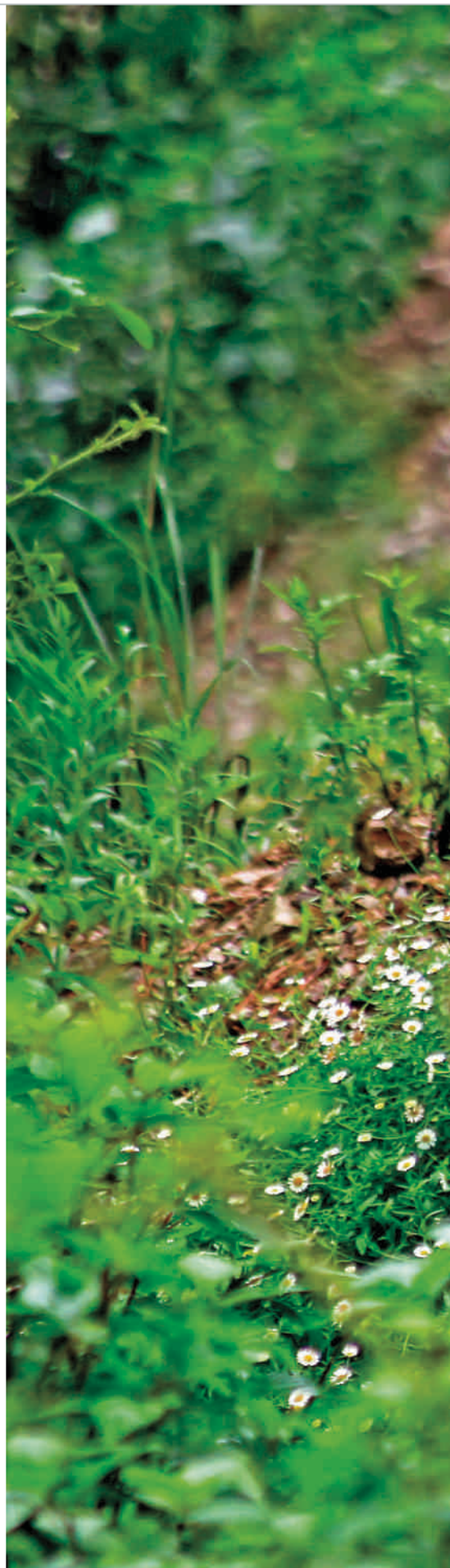
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Herpetofauna of the Indian Himalayan Region

04

Bibliography on the Herpetofauna of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

The uplifting of the Himalaya as a result of Cenozoic Indo-Asia collision has greatly influenced biogeography in Asia. Tectonic events resulted in barriers and corridors that influenced dispersal, endemism or transgression. These heterogeneous mountain environments shaped the genetic diversity and evolutionary history of herpetofaunal species (Guo et al., 2011, Agarwal et al., 2014). Being physiologically constrained by temperature, rainfall, and humidity, coupled with limited vagility, herpetofauna are regarded as good model organisms for predicting climate change scenarios (Araujo et al., 2006; Caruso et al., 2014). With increasing anthropogenic pressure coupled with rampant development activities, environmental degradation is at an alarming rate. The rate of warming in the Himalaya is greater than the global average, making it most vulnerable to climate change (Shrestha et al., 2011). Being thermoconformers, herpetofauna thus become one of the most suitable model organisms to predict climate change scenarios in the Himalaya.

Diverse herpetofaunal assemblage represents a distinct east to west gradient in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). Elevation gradient, high humidity and rainfall coupled with diverse forest type contribute to species richness. Himalayan herpetofauna has been studied from as early as 1818 (Das, 2003). So far 119 reptiles and 108 amphibian species have been recorded from IHR. Of these, 21% of reptiles and 40% of amphibians are endemic to the region. However, even the basic inventory is far from complete. This is evident from the fact that as many as 45 new herpetofaunal species have being added in the last ten years.

About 18% reptiles and 44% of amphibians that are endemic to IHR were categorized as data deficient in IUCN. As the basic documentation is far from complete, inventory seems to be of paramount importance. In the light of current climate change scenario, there is a need to identify biological indicators across IHR to delineate measurable responses and to generate information on elevation distribution of species and factors that govern such patterns

Methods

Online databases and scientific journals were searched using the search terms “Himalaya” and name of the six Himalayan States such as “Jammu and Kashmir”, “Himachal Pradesh”, “Uttarakhand”, “Sikkim”, “Arunachal Pradesh” and “West Bengal”. All the information were entered in the Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and arranged alphabetically to remove any duplication. All the analyses were carried out in Microsoft Excel to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasised areas and the knowledge gap. We have classified literature into four broad categories as described below.

Taxonomy and Systematics (Comprises of description of new species, classification, morphological and molecular taxonomy and phylogenetics)

Ecology and behaviour (Comprises of publication on ecology, breeding biology, feeding behaviour, life history and parasitism)

Distribution and Biogeography (Comprises of publication on distribution study, range extension, new locality record and biogeography)

Inventory and checklist (Comprises of checklist, expedition reports, state fauna series by Zoological Survey of India, field guide, museum catalogue and collection notes on reptiles and amphibians.)



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Results and Discussion

Previously Dutta (1997) published a detailed account on "Amphibians of India and Sri Lanka (Checklist and Bibliography). Sen and Mathew (2008) published "Systematic and bibliography of North East India". Present bibliography on herpetofauna of the Indian Himalayan Region includes 401 unique entries covering a period of almost two centuries, starting from 1825 to 2016. We categorized the articles in three distinct ways: A) The first category was based on parts of six Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal-Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri district and Arunachal Pradesh) where the studies were carried out. B) The second category was based on their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped into 10-year intervals from 1821 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The third category was based on the subject focus of the research; the publications were categorized based on the broad subjects (ecology and behaviour, taxonomy, evolution, conservation and climate change impact) on which the research was carried out.

Geographical Distribution of Publications

Publications were classified according to the region or state in the IHR where the study took place, wherever possible. The greatest number of studies on herpetofauna have been carried out in the Eastern Himalayan region, compared to the Western Himalaya. Arunachal Pradesh has the greatest number of publications, followed by West Bengal and Sikkim (Table 4.1). Jammu and Kashmir has the most number of publications in the Western Himalayas, compared to Uttarakhand, while very few studies on herpetofauna have been carried out in Himachal Pradesh.

Table 4.1 State wise distribution of publications

States	Number of Publications
Jammu and Kashmir	22
Himachal Pradesh	5
Uttarakhand	19
Sikkim	23
West Bengal	29
Arunachal Pradesh	32
Others	249

Temporal Pattern of Publications

Literature was classified according to the year of publication, and this is represented in a graph by number of publications per decade. Publications date back to 1821, and are as recent as 2016 (Fig 4.1). The greatest number of publications were in the 2001-2010 decade, followed by the preceding decade, 1991-2000.

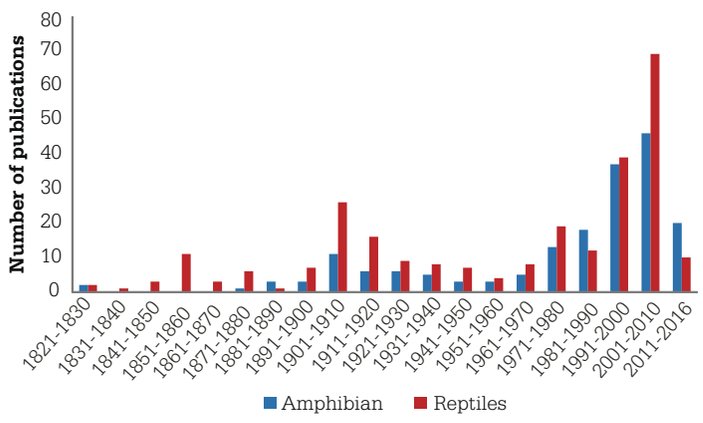


Figure 4.1 Temporal pattern of publications on herpetofauna of the Indian Himalayan Region

Publications by subject

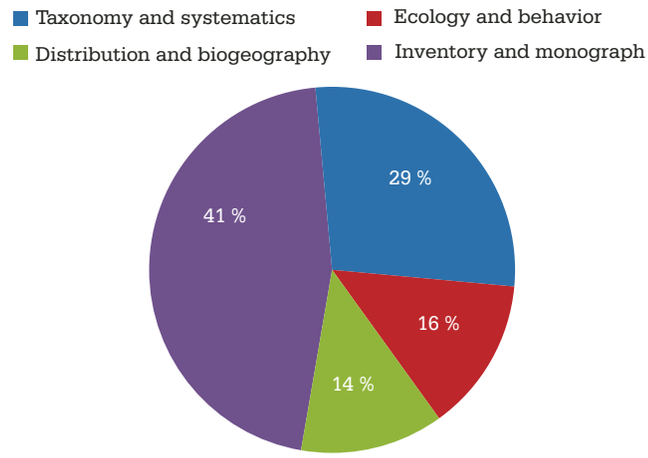


Figure 4.2 Number of publications on herpetofauna of the Indian Himalayan Region in different subject categories

Himalayan herpetofauna has so far received attention largely at the alpha taxonomic level. Major inventory and documentation are by Günther (1860) for Himalayan region, for Uttarakhand (Ray, 1992; Orlov and Helfenberger, 1997; Vasudevan and Sondhi, 2010); Himachal Pradesh (Dutta, 1999), Kashmir and Ladakh (Sahi and Duda, 1985; Gruber, 1981); Sikkim- Darjeeling region (Bhupathy et al., 2009; Pan, 2013); northeast India (Annandale, 1907; Wall, 1908; Whitaker and Captain, 2004; Athreya, 2006; Ahmed et al., 2009; Biju et al., 2010); and Nepal Himalaya (Leviton et al., 1956; Schleich and Kastle, 2002).

Studies on the distribution of Himalayan herpetofauna has mainly been in sporadic reports. Few regional studies address elevation distribution patterns for herpetofauna. For example, Waltner (1973, 1974) for herpetofauna of Himalayan region; Chettri (2007, 2010) for reptiles of Sikkim Himalaya, and Das (2011) for snakes of Northeast India. All these observations have revealed that the lower elevation of Himalaya has particularly high herpetofaunal species richness and diversity decreases with increase in elevation. However, mid-elevation is known for unique species richness and regarded as a species replacement zone.

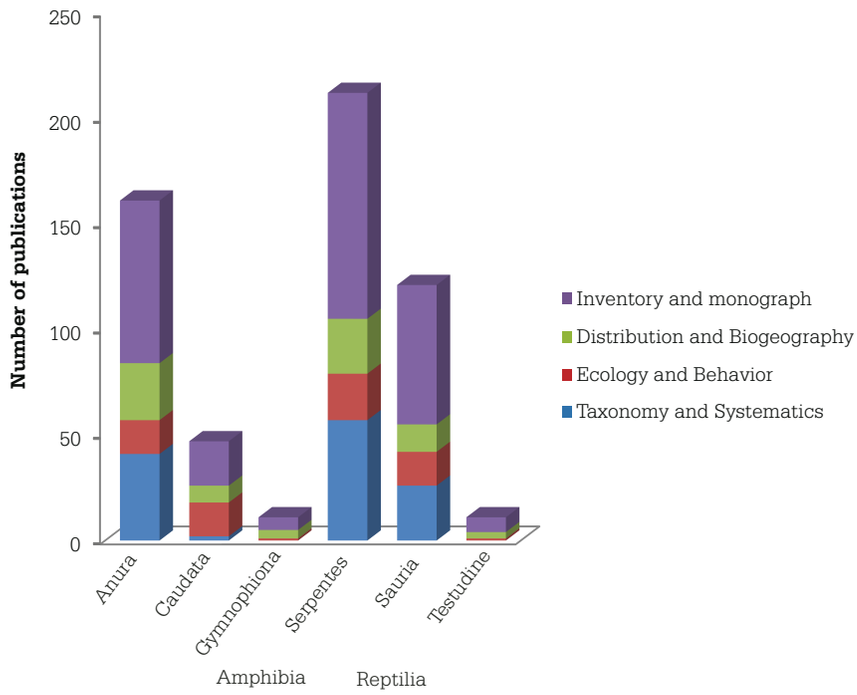


Figure 4.3 Subject wise distribution of scientific literature among Amphibian and Reptilian orders

Aspects of ecology and biology are reported only in few studies such as Waltner (1991), Lal (1991), Bhatnagar (1967) on Laudakia tuberculata on aspects of ecology, biology and distribution pattern; Dasgupta (1984, 1994, 1996), Kuzmin et al. (1994) studied ecology and natural history of single representative of salamander in India viz *Tylototriton verrucosus*. Kastle (1998) studied ecology of newly described species *Sitana sivalensis;* Kastle and Schleich (1998) recorded ecological information on endemic *Japalura kumaonensis*; Sharma and Sharma (1976) contributed some biological observation of perianthropic *Xenochrophis piscator*. Kaul and Duda (1976) reported ovarian cycle of high altitude lizards (Fig. 4.3).

Publications in the bibliography were classified into the following topics – Ecology, Behaviour, Geography, Taxonomy, Evolution, Conservation, Climate Change, and General. The highest number of publications were on Distribution (170), and next highest number were on Taxonomy (157). There were no papers on climate change, and few papers were on evolution (5) or conservation (11) (Fig. 4.4).

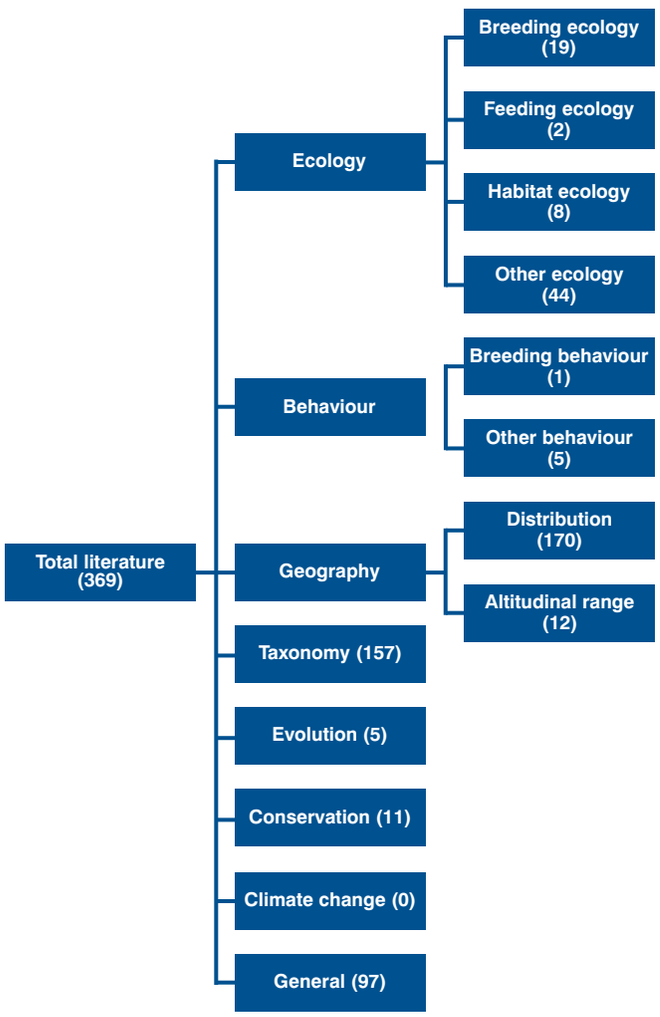


Figure 4.4 Number of publications on the herpetofauna of the Indian Himalayan Region in different subject categories

Research Gaps and Future Priorities

Research priorities in the past have been mainly taxonomy and distribution of herpetofauna, with some publications also focusing on biology. As herpetofauna are particularly vulnerable to climate change and extinction, they make important and ideal indicators for studies on climate change, and this will be of great importance in future research (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 The key past and future research priorities based on the current assessment

Subject Area	Key past research priorities	Research Gap and future priorities
Ecology and Behaviour	Distribution Biology	Feeding, breeding and habitat ecology
Taxonomy	Classification	Molecular Phylogeny
Evolution	Evolution and dispersal	
Conservation	Status and conservation	Conservation, prevention of conflict
Climate change	-	Herpetofauna as indicators of climate change Effect of climate change on ecology, behaviour, distribution, evolution, or extinction of herpetofauna.

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Fishes of the Indian Himalayan Region









05

Bibliography on Fishes of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

The rivers that originate in the Himalaya provide sustenance, livelihoods and prosperity to millions of people living in India and neighbouring countries. Freshwater fish diversity in the Himalaya is structured by diverse geomorphic conditions thermal regimes and rapid water current. These combination factors have given rise to unique composition of fish species assemblages in Himalaya. While Himalaya can be considered as key landscape for conservation of unique cold water fish diversity of world but it is recognised that the fish species and their aquatic systems are fast declining. Maintaining the extent and ecosystem functionality of the aquatic ecosystems in the Himalaya and preventing any further retrogression is, therefore, important as a strategy to address climate change. In this context, a bibliographical review was carried out with available research publications to understand research gaps in fish ecology and conservation in the Himalaya.

Knowledge of occurrence of fish in India dates back to three millenium B.C., though the first attempt on the documentation of Himalayan fishes were made by Hora (1937) on certain aspects of the torrential fish distribution and zoogeography, which were appreciably continued by Menon (1962) and Jayram (1977) and then several documentations of fish diversity of Himalayas till date (Sehgal 1999; Karmakar 2000; Sundar and Joshi 2002; Bhatt 2016, Nautiyal 2016). Presently, the Indian Himalaya is known to be home for around 266 fish species, which is about 27% of the India's total freshwater fish diversity including vast variety of threatened, migratory and endemic species (Nautiyal, 2005, FishBase 2016). This uniqueness in Himalayan freshwater fishes pertaining to different geomorphic conditions, changing thermal regimes and fast water current, which are drained by 19 major rivers. There are multitudes of factors, which are responsible for the inimitable distribution of fishes in the Himalaya. Their specialized morphology enables them to inhabit in the torrential rivers and streams of the Himalayas, earlier recognized by Menon (1954) into six major groups: (a) fish with powerful muscular cylindrical bodies inhabiting the bottom water layers in deep fast current,: Schizothoracines and the introduced trouts; (b) fish with adhesive organs cling to exposed surfaces of bare rocks in slower current,: *Garra*, *Glyptothorax* and *Glyptosternum*; (c) fish inhabiting among pebbles and stones to avoid the strong current: *Crossocheilus;* (d) fish with special attachment devices inhabiting among pebbles around near shore areas,: the loaches *Noemacheilus, Botia* and *Amblyceps*; (e) fish with highly modified oval bodies and mouth, gills and fins able to cling to surfaces of bare rocks: *Balitora* and (f) fish without any prominent modifications dwelling in shallow, clear cold waters in the foothills: *Labeo, Tor, Barilius* and *Puntius*. Later, Sehgal (1988) identified numerous fish zones on the basis of dominant fish species and the hydrographical features.

Albeit a long history of studies on fishes within the Indian Himalaya Region (IHR) (Hora 1937), there is lack of an exclusive platform where all the information can be assembled and make it readily available for further use. Presently, the central (Nepal) Himalaya was known to be richest (181 species) in fish diversity, followed by the western (167 species) and the eastern Himalaya (159) however the survey work is little comprehensive and there are several areas which remain unexplored and needs to be updated. Moreover, the current unpredictability of estimates of fish species diversity and their ecology within the IHR makes it nearly certain that the current knowledge is inadequate. From the fisheries viewpoint, the Himalayan rivers Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra are of great importance to livelihoods and economies are now embarking upon an unprecedented scale of development. Further, the current anthropogenic threats and their consequences are likely to be complicated in future by global climate change leading to rising temperatures and shifts in runoff and precipitation patterns which may pose significant extinction of fish fauna already susceptible in the Indian Himalayan Region. Therefore, there is an urgent need of robust and readily available information on several aspects of fishes in IHR to cope up with new

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challenges. To close this information gap, as a first step; a comprehensive assessment was made in this article by collecting all the scientific literature on the freshwater fish fauna of IHR and categorizing the trend of scientific development and knowledge gap till date.

Methods

All the available relevant published information related this subject were collected through an in-depth search of various sources, viz. international databases, CD-ROMs and the WII Library and Documentation Centre. Further, the literature review was undertaken online by browsing a total of 75 keywords related to different aspects of fishes and adding the term Himalaya with names of six Himalayan States such as "Jammu and Kashmir", "Himachal Pradesh", "Uttarakhand", "Sikkim", "Arunachal Pradesh" and "West Bengal". All the information were entered in the Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and arranged alphabetically to remove any duplication. All the analyses were carried out in Microsoft Excel to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasised areas and the knowledge gap. This review was restricted only to those research articles published in English that too in peer reviewed and online journals. Therefore, there is a scope for updating this bibliography in future with more publications that are either in the form of grey literature or not available online.

Results and Discussion

Temporal pattern of studies of fishes in the Himalaya:

The first study on fishes of Himalaya was reported from 1785. A total of 812 publications related to multitude of studies on fishes in the IHR beginning from 1785 to 2016 were collected and compiled (Fig. 5.1). Although the studies on fishes in India date back to three millennium B.C. (Hora 1956) but the first researcher on Himalayan fishes was Bloch (1785) who could collect and describe few fish specimen from Himalaya. The numbers of studies of fishes from IHR have started growing after 1930s onwards and it was at peak during 1991 to 2000 where in almost 21% of the studies out of the total literature collected was recorded during this period (Fig. 5.1).

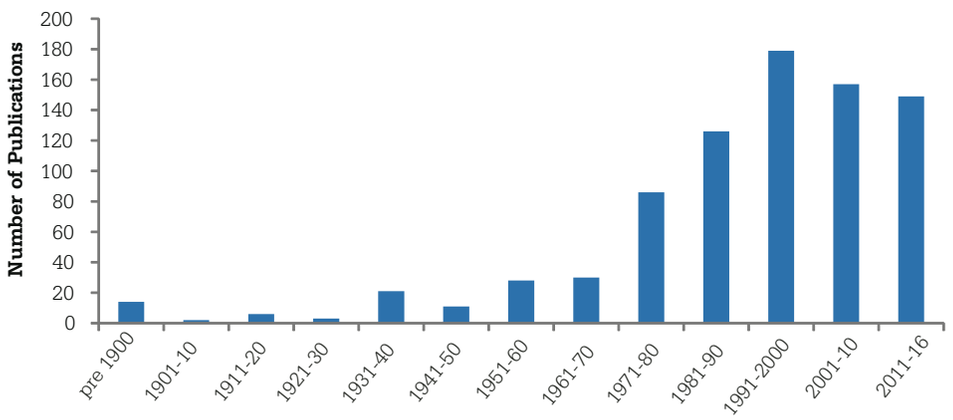


Figure 5.1 Temporal pattern of publication on fishes in the Indian Himalayan Region

Subject focus of publications

Considering the range of study areas available on the fishes of IHR and the research trend over the centuries, all the literature were classified into 12 broad subject categories (Fig. 5.2). All the collected literature were grouped into wide ranging themes such as biodiversity and distribution, biology, ecology, evolution, taxonomy, disease, fish farming, aquatic conservation management, population biology, molecular taxonomy/population genetics, climate change/altitudinal distribution and other aquatic taxa. Some of the publications collected from the browsing, for instance was devoted to range of subjects such as fish biology, conservation, distribution in a single study as such these publications were manually scrutinized and added in the relevant subject categories.

The number of publications on the fishes of IHR increased with time broadly focussed on taxonomy, biogeography and evolution particularly during 17th to 18th century in the beginning to range of subjects viz. fish diversity,

distribution, disease and ecology etc in the later time intervals (Fig. 5.3). Out of the total publications, approximately 22 % and 20% dealt with Taxonomy and biodiversity/distribution respectively and only 1% to 3% studies were related with aquatic conservation, molecular, population and climate change related studies (Fig. 5.3).

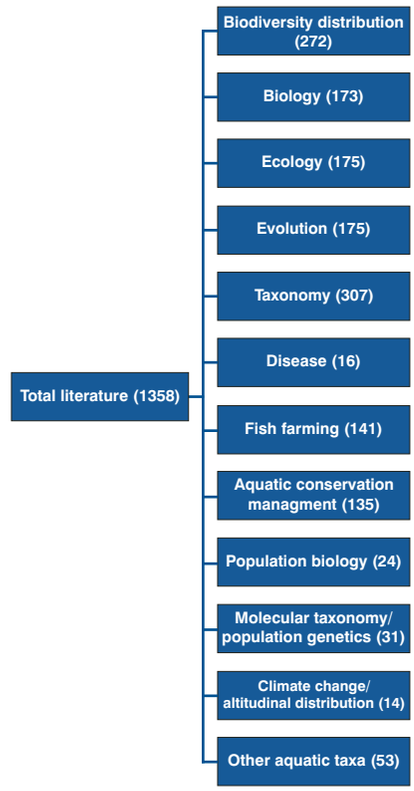


Figure 5.2 Number of publications in different broad subject categories

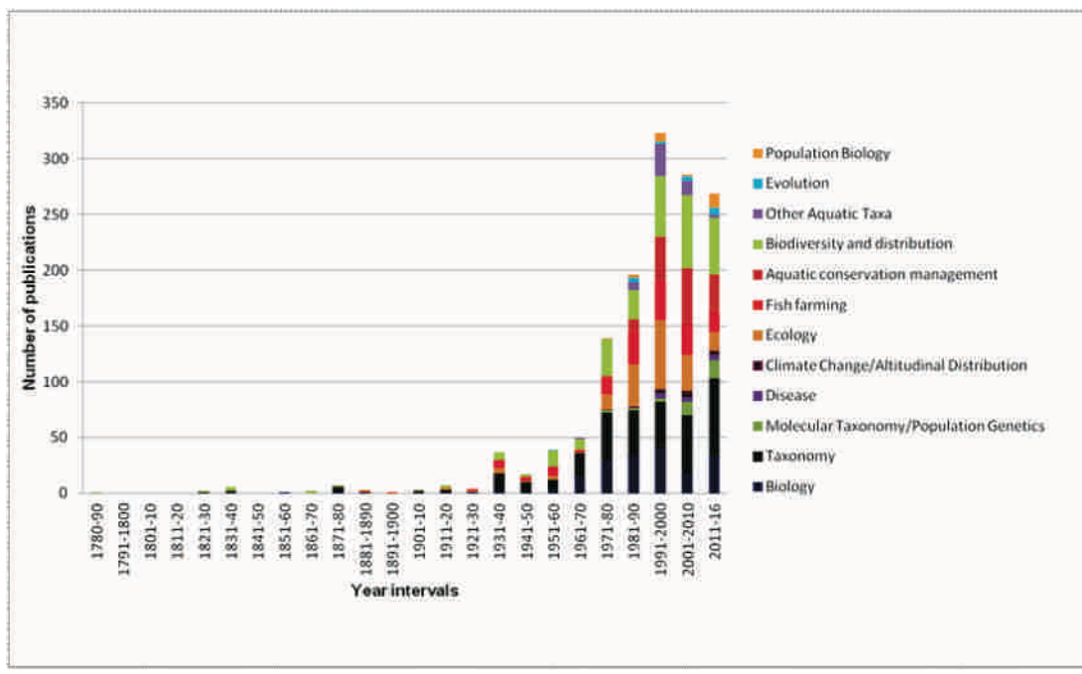


Figure 5.3 Trend of publications under different broad categories in different year intervals

Spatial distribution of fish researches across Himalaya

A total of six Himalayan States viz. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and hilly regions of Assam and West Bengal were taken into account for listing the available literature on fishes so far. Among the selected states Uttarakhand was recorded highest with 582 publications followed by hill regions of Assam & West Bengal (184), Jammu & Kashmir (172) and only 25 publications could be recorded from the Sikkim state (Fig. 5.4). This distribution of publication were then categorized into 12 broad subject and studies like taxonomy, biology and biodiversity were recorded to be the major focus areas whereas studies like ecology, evolution, climate change related studies were remain neglected in all these states (Fig. 5.5).

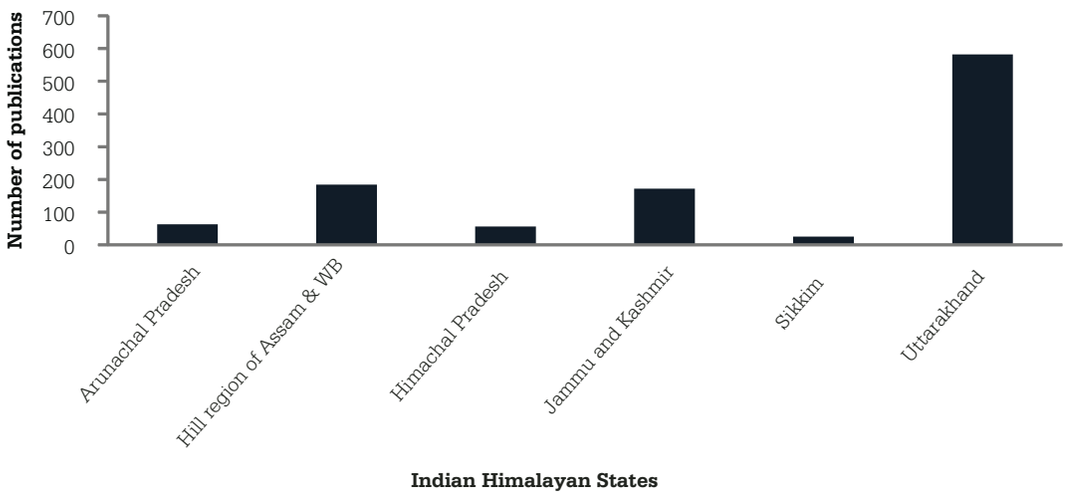


Figure 5.4 Number of publications in the Indian Himalayan states

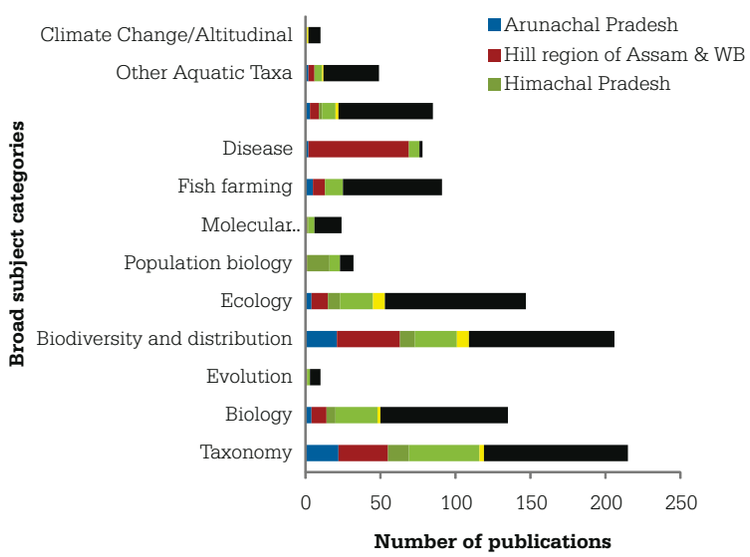


Figure 5.5 Trends in publications in the Indian Himalayan states under different broad subject categories

Research gaps and future priorities

Fishes in the Indian Himalayan Region has always been an attraction for ichthyologists worldwide that reflected here in a vast variety of studies over last two decades. However, there are still several research gaps which need to be identified in order to set the future priorities for betterment of conservation efforts. In this view, a range of broader subject areas were assessed based on the current information collected in this study and the key past research priorities among different study areas were investigated to find out the research gaps (Table 5.1).

A range of broader subject areas identified here with less publication output clearly revealed the less research investment in the particular subject which required special attention. Looking after the current challenges which the IHR is facing in terms of severe anthropogenic disturbances and upcoming climate change effects which are more critical for freshwater fishes of this region, studies on the habitat requirements, ecology and biology of freshwater species is essential to fill this information gap. Most of the information available for IHR is based on taxonomy, species distribution and biodiversity studies that were scattered and old. Many of the areas are still unexplored that need to be surveyed to determine current threat status of freshwater fishes. The proper taxonomic revision of the freshwater fishes within the IHR is also required to discourage taxonomic ambiguities. All this information can only be achieved with a proper assessment and field survey.

Table 5.1 The key past and future research priorities based on the current assessment

Subject Area	Key past research priorities	Research Gap and future priorities
Biodiversity and distribution	Cataloguing, distribution pattern, abundance in certain localities	Unexplored areas, taxonomic ambiguities, lack of robust methodology
Biology	Life history parameters, Age and growth, fecundity, maturity periods, breeding	Focused mostly on economic important species, lack of understanding on population health management and species recovery. No studies on migration pattern of threatened migratory species
Ecology	Fish assemblage patterns, Physiochemical parameters	Limited studies, Lack of understating on priority area identification. No information about the environmental flow required to sustain the normal life history of fishes.
Evolution	Morphological characterization, geographic distribution and similarities	Lack of readily available historical records and data
Taxonomy	Redescriptions, new records, systematic accounts	Taxonomic ambiguities, proper exploration
Disease	Morphological anomalies, parasites, diet and toxicological studies	Mainly focussed on economic important species
Fish farming	Captive breeding, hatchery/pond maintenance, ranching, fish production	Motivated towards exotic species, less attention to native species
Aquatic Conservation management	Protected area management, anthropogenic threats and threat status	Inadequate scientific data on threats, regional species distribution and threat categories
Population biology	Phenotypic variations, stock identification, comparative life history traits	Lack of understanding on suitable stock characterization, conservation and recovery programmes
Molecular Taxonomy/ Population Genetics	Mitochondrial, microsatellite DNA based studies, DNA barcoding	Needed to be linked with ecology, evolution and conservation of threatened species
Climate Change/ Altitudinal Distribution	Studies based on altitudinal distribution, shifts in distributions	Freshwater ecosystems largely neglected, Lack of suitable reference data

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Butterflies and Odonates of the Indian Himalayan Region



06

Bibliography on the Butterflies and Odonates of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

Insects account for about 65% of all described species on earth. As there are a large number of studies on insects because of their huge diversity, it is beyond the scope of this compilation to focus on all insect groups. However, we have attempted here to compile a bibliographic database of butterflies and odonates reported from the Indian Himalayan Region(IHR) to understand trends on research and identify gaps in knowledge.

A. Butterflies

Introduction

Lepidoptera is one of the most widespread and widely recognizable insect order in the world. Butterflies are the most studied group amongst insects and the best known insects after ants. Butterflies belong to "flagship taxa" in biodiversity inventories. Since early 18th century butterflies have been studied systematically and about 19,238 species have been documented worldwide (Heppner, 1998). The butterflies were categorized into ten families Papilionidae, Pieridae, Danaidae, Satyridae, Nymphalidae, Amathusiidae, Acraeidae, Erycinidae and Lycaenidae, and Hesperiiodea. Except for Hesperiids all the butterflies are placed in single superfamily Papilionoidea under suborder Rhopalocera and the latter is separated out into superfamily Hesperiioidea under suborder Grypocera.

In the Indian subcontinent 1,504 species of butterflies have been recorded so far (Smetacek, 1992) and over 800 species are reported from the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).The earliest collections of butterflies from the Himalaya were perhaps by Hardwick and Carl von Hugel during 1846-1848. Hardwick collections were described by Doubleday and Gray in 1846 and Hugel collection by Redtenbacker in 1848. Many workers have worked on butterflies from India including the IHR. Pioneers among them were Marshall and DeNiceville (1882-1890), Bingham (1905, 1907) Seitz (1906-1928), Antram (1928), Evans (1932),Wynter-Blyth (1957) and Varshney (1985, 1990, 1997). De Rhe-Philipe (1931) was probably the first to publish a comprehensive list of 246 butterflies from Himalayas of Shimla region which he has included later in his book 'Butterflies of Indian Region' (1957). Evans (1932) identified 1,438 species of butterflies from oriental region including 417 species from western Himalaya and 962 species north eastern Himalaya.

Antram (1924) reported about 512 butterflies excluding Lycaenidae and Hesperiidae from North-East Himalayan region. According to his record maximum number of butterflies was found in North Eastern Himalayas that extends into Sikkim. He also listed them as 'very rare' and 'rare' which was later incorporated in the schedule-I (Part-4) and schedule-II (Part-2) of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA).

Methods

Online research databases were searched using the search terms "Himalaya" and name of the six Himalayan States such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal. Lamas (1991) provided a list of 175 periodical publications, dealing exclusively with lepidopterological studies were also referred, which were available. All the information was entered in the Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and arranged alphabetically to remove any duplication. All the analyses were carried out in Microsoft Excel to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasised areas and the knowledge gap.

Manish Bhardwaj, Shuvendu Das,
Pooja Kala, and Virendra Prasad Uniyal

Results and Discussion

The bibliography on butterfly fauna of the IHR includes 276 unique entries covering a period of nearly two centuries, starting from 1857 to 2016 (Fig. 6.2). We categorized the articles in four distinct ways: A) The first category was based on the regions of five Himalayan states (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh) where the studies were carried out. B) The second category was based on their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped in 10-year intervals from 1857 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The third category was based on the subject focus of the research; the publications were categorized based on the broad subjects (ecology and behaviour, taxonomy, evolution, conservation and climate change impact) at which the research was carried out. D) Articles were also categories based on the five butterfly families which were the object of research in the various publications where no distinct pattern was found. Most of the studies were found to cover all the butterfly families (Fig 6.3). Family Nymphalidae and Papilionidae were include in most of the studies because of their large size and colour patterns. However, in many of the studies family Hesperiidae was not included.

Geographical Distribution of Publications

A large number of studies are from Jammu and Kashmir, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand which shows that western Himalayan region was in focus during British era in India (Fig 6.1).

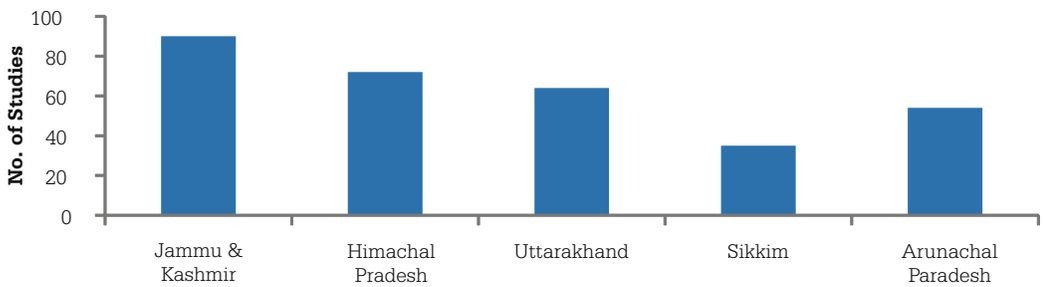


Figure 6.1 State wise distribution of publications

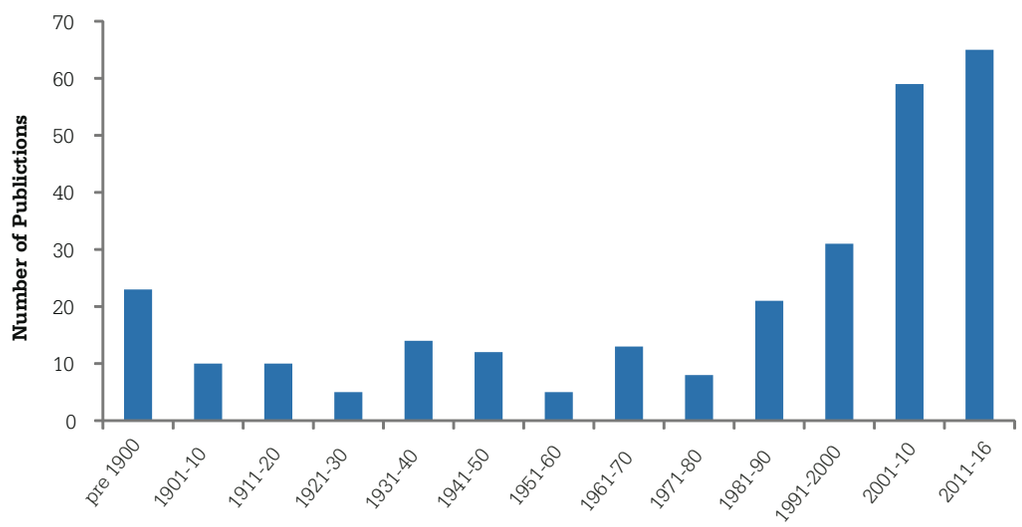


Figure 6.2 Temporal pattern of publications on butterfly of Indian Himalayan Region

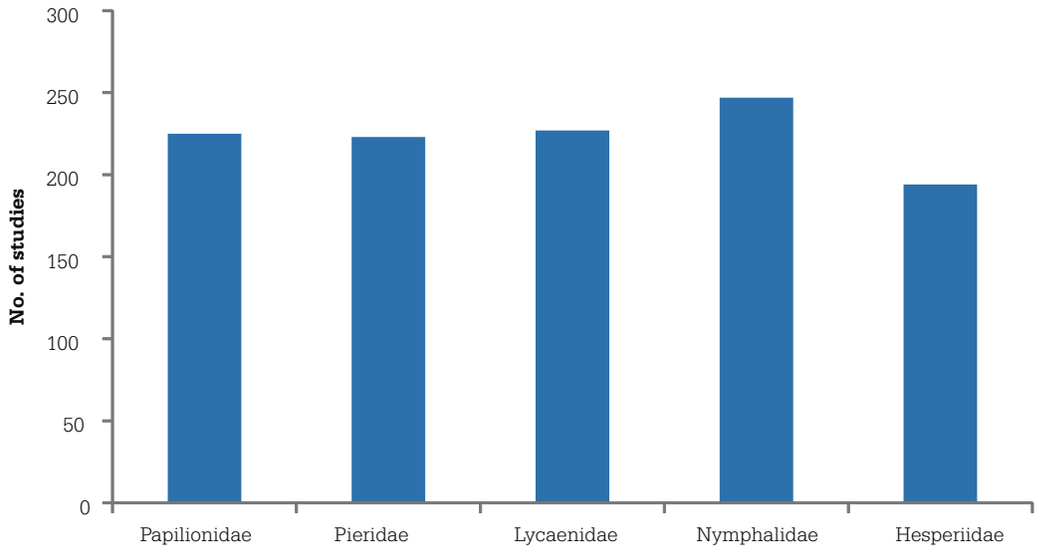


Figure 6.3 Distribution of scientific literature among different families

In recent years there is some progress in the study of butterfly biodiversity from Himalayan region. However most of the researches are confined only to certain localities and these are inventory checklists (Fig. 6.4). Considering the total area of the region information generated is very meagre. Detailed studies focusing on butterfly biodiversity, ecology and evolution is needed from Himalayan region. This information will help in proper revision of status of butterflies in WPA.

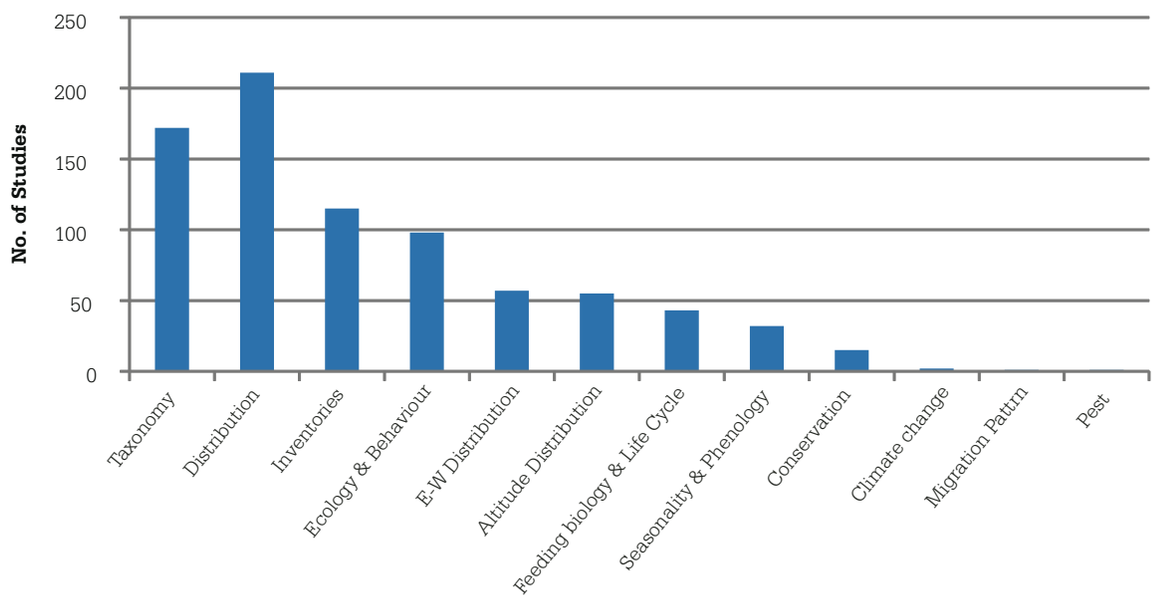


Figure 6.4 Number of publications on butterflies of the Indian Himalayan Region in different subject categories

B. Odonates

The Indian Himalayan Region is bestowed with very rich and diverse odonata assemblages. Within the Indian sub-region, the odonatafauna of the Himalaya has so been most extensively studied. During the period of late 1950's to early 1980's, number of odonatologists have studied the dragonflies of the Himalaya (Kiauta, 1975), consequent to which about 225 species, out of approximately 600 Indian species of odonata, have been recorded from the Himalayan region alone (i.e." Western, Central and Eastern Himalaya). These include a considerable number of new species and a large number of new records made from this region since the publication of Fauna of British India.

Variations in the topography and altitudes in Himalaya play important roles in changing the climatic conditions within short distances. The fauna is composed largely of tropical elements derived from the fauna of Indo-malayan sub-region of the Oriental region. It is presumed that after the elevation of the Himalayas, odonata from different parts or the Oriental region have reached the mountains and constitute the present fauna. Hence it is reasonable to think that both hills and forests of the mountains play a great role in the formation of barriers as well as in speciation. Most of the endemic species have narrow geographic distribution and are more susceptible to extinction due to natural and anthropogenic changes in the environment. The endemic Odonata fauna of India is largely concentrated in four global biodiversity hotspots i.e., the Western Ghats, Western Himalaya, Indo Burmese (includes Andaman Islands) and Sunda land (includes Nicobar Islands).

The scientific literature on odonate fauna of South Asia is available from 18th Century, but it suffers from lack of digitalization and many of these pioneering works on odonate fauna of India are inaccessible. Moreover, information on odonatological studies in the IHR was not available on a single platform. This article comprises the information on available scientific literature on Odonate fauna of the IHR, particularly the trends in research and gaps in knowledge.

Methods

For preparation of the database on the Bibliography of Odonate Fauna of the IHR, we searched using the search terms "Himalaya", "Fraser", "Corbett", "Leiftinck", "Kumar", "Mitra" and name of the six Himalayan States viz., Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal.. All the information were entered in a Microsoft Excel Spread sheet and arranged alphabetically to remove any duplication. All the analyses were carried out in Microsoft Excel to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasised areas and the knowledge gaps.

Results and Discussion

The bibliography on Odonatefauna of the IHR includes 139 unique entries covering a period over centuries, starting from 1915 to 2016 (Fig 6.5). We categorized the articles in three distinct ways: A) The first category was based on overall distribution (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh), taxonomic revision and new addition to the fauna, where the studies were carried out. B) The second category was based on their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped in 10-year intervals from 1900 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The third category was based on the subject focus of the research; the publications were categorized based on the levels of broad subject (ecology and behaviour, taxonomy, evolution, conservation and climate change impact) at which the research was carried out (Fig. 6.6 & 6.7). ?

Temporal Pattern of Publications

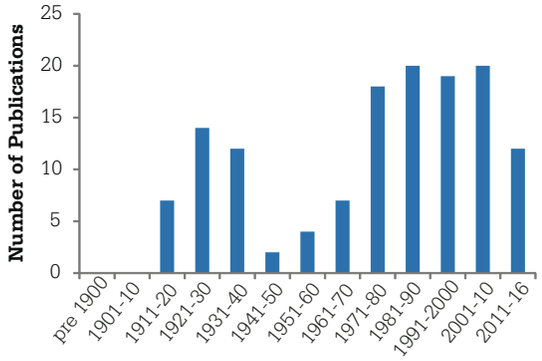


Figure 6.5 Temporal patterns of publications on odonates of the Indian Himalayan Region

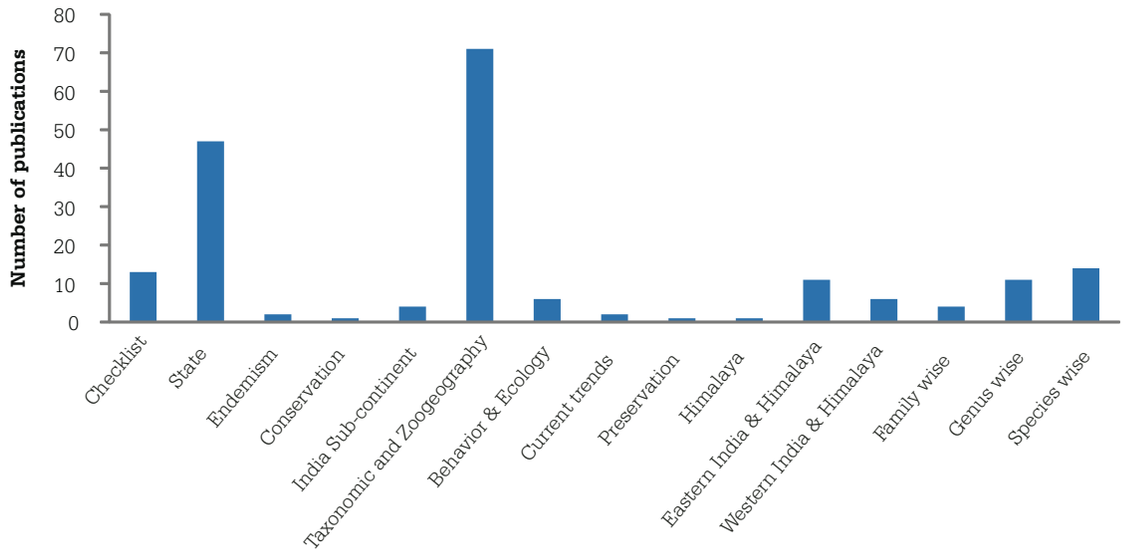


Figure 6.6 Comprehensive classifications of publication on odonates of the Indian Himalayan Region

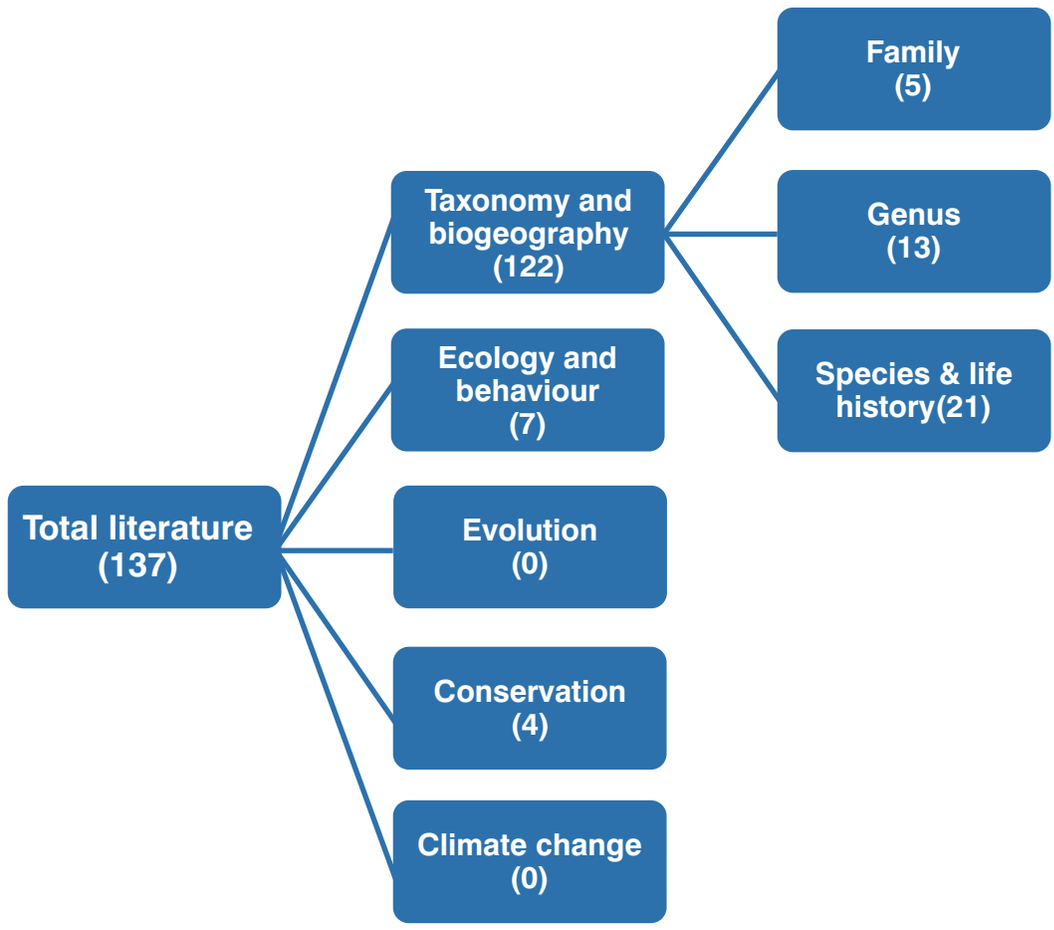


Figure 6.7 Number of publications on odonates of the Indian Himalayan Region in different subject categories

In early 19th century, most of the scientific work was based on odonate fauna taxonomic inventory and distribution. But after 1930 the trend of research shifted towards behaviour, ecology and biogeography. But the timing of research was mostly based on individuality(e.g. Laidlaw, Fraser, Asahina, Kumar etc.) (Table 6.1). Due to World War-II, most of the British researchers left the country and overall research in this field suffered for few years.After the war was over, few researchers came back to India and continued their passion towards dragonfly and damselfly. From early 50's Indian field researchers started their quest in Odonatology and brought remarkable contribution since early 60's. However, still there is no such work related to conservation, evolution and climate change in the IHR.

Table 6.1. Subject area, key past research priorities and research gap and future potentialities

Subject Area	Key past research priorities	Research Gap and future priorities
Ecology and Behaviour	Distribution Life cycle stages Migration pattern	Proper Distribution map Taxonomic biases Very less studies
Taxonomy	Morphological Taxonomy	Molecular Taxonomy Isolation and Speciation study based on molecular level Geometry based morphometry
Evolution	Not studies yet, few hypothesis exist	Should be more study widely considering all levels of study Evolution and climate change
Conservation	In few pockets and patches	Should focused on wetland conservation by focusing this taxa as one of the prime
Climate change	Not studies yet but few geomorphic and diurnal changes were noted	Should study Phylogenetic Affinities and Past Climate Distribution of critically endangered and fragmented species population.

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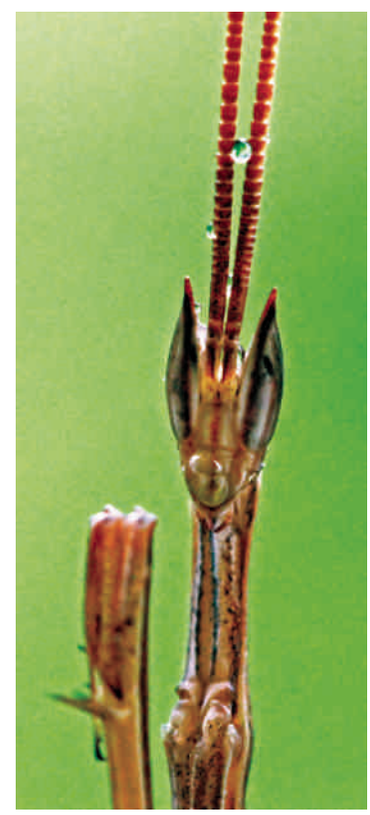
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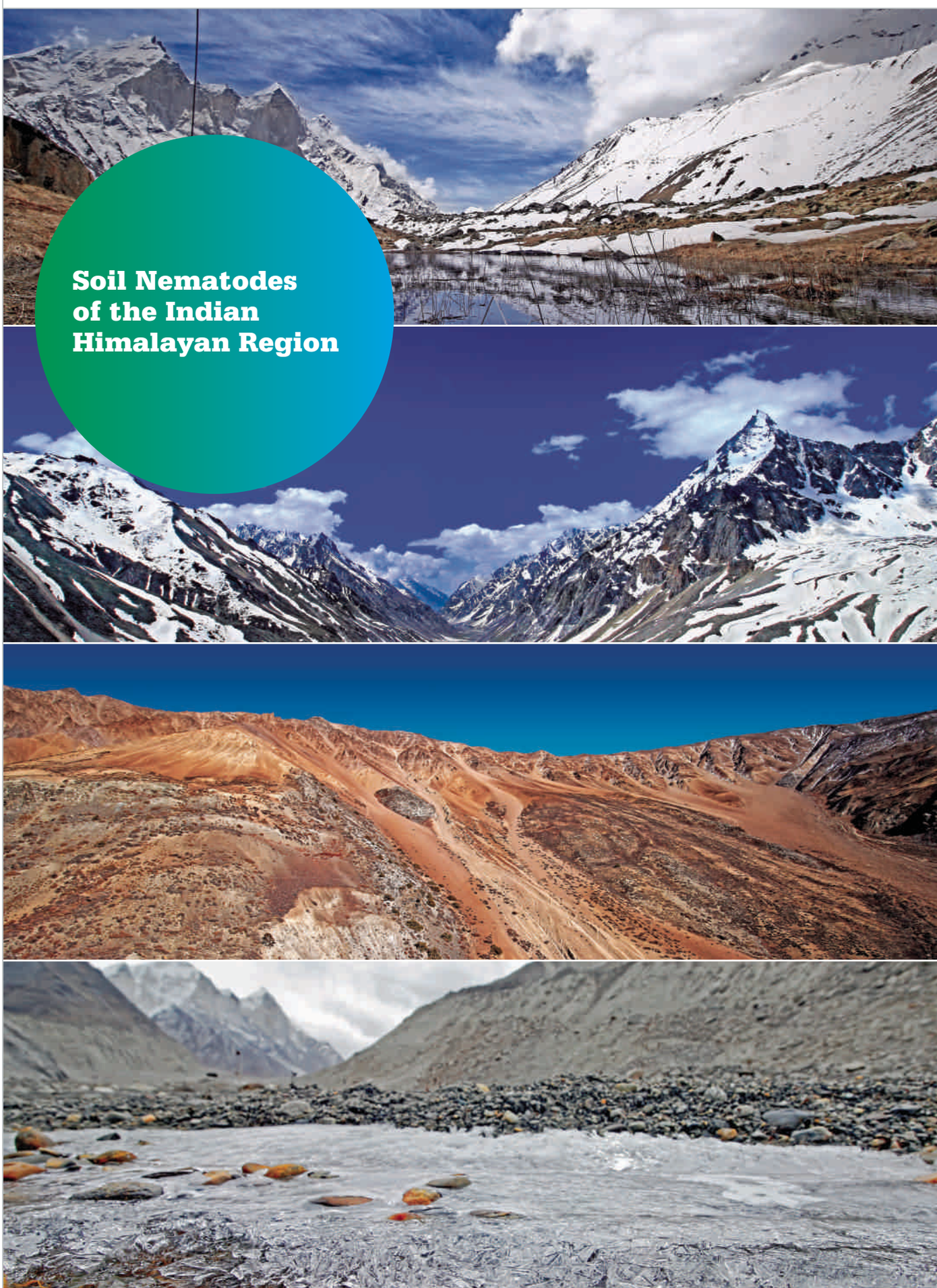
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Soil Nematodes of the Indian Himalayan Region

07

Bibliography on the Soil Nematodes of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

The nematodes are ubiquitous, found everywhere on this earth, even in uninhabitable habitats from hot spring, ice to deep ocean trenches. Some of them are the parasites of agricultural and horticultural crops, invertebrates and vertebrates. A majority of them are free living in the soil or marine, or freshwater and some are predaceous. Nematodes occur in a wide range of habitats which is incomparable with any other metazoan group. About 0.1-1.0 million marine nematodes may be found per Sq.m. Roughly it has been estimated that out of 500,000 nematode species over the world; approximately 80,000 nematode species may be existing in India. Nematodes have a huge expected number of species, Only some species in thousands are known untill date from all over the world. In India, considerable work has been done on animal nematodes but the work on plant and soil nematodes started late. The first plant parasitic (root-knot) nematode was reported by Barber (1901) from tea gardens of southern India.

Soil nematodes act as a good biological agent in the management of plant parasitic nematodes. There has been a prominent increase in the use of nematodes in environmental studies as it provides easy detection of change in decomposition pathways and soil functioning at an early stage resulting in soil health status, ultimately act as a bio indicator for climate change. Certain nematodes take part in maintaining natural balance in the soil while a few are good experimental animals in the basic research on nutrition, physiology, genetics, etc. A few families like Rhabditidae, Cephalobidae etc may be considered as indicator species. Nematodes can be used for determining pollution and other types of aquatic disturbances as nematodes can ingest heavy metals and other pollutants settled in the sediments.

The great diversity of life forms, evolved as a result of variation in climatic conditions and topography which is distributed in a variety of habitat types ranging from tropical rainforest to temperate forest and alpine grasslands in Himalaya. In India, history of nematode research is too young and thus it is not possible to compare the present state of the art with the past. The first vertebrate nematode was recorded in 1855 while the first plant nematode in 1901. We compiled a bibliographic database of studies on soil nematodes conducted in Indian Himalayan Region.

Methods

Data was searched using the search terms "Himalaya", "soil nematodes" and name of the six Himalayan States such as "Jammu and Kashmir", "Himachal Pradesh", "Uttarakhand", "Sikkim", "West Bengal" and "Arunachal Pradesh" on internet, library of Zoological Survey of India, Dehradun and its e-publications. All the information were entered in the Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and arranged alphabetically to remove any duplication. All the analyses were carried out in Microsoft Excel to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasised areas and the knowledge gap.

Results and Discussion

The bibliography on micro fauna of Indian Himalayan Region includes 209 unique entries covering years starting from 1956 to 2016. We categorized the articles in three distinct ways: A) The first category was based on parts of 5 Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh) where the studies were carried out. B) The second category was based on their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped into 10-year intervals from 1956 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The third category was based on the subject focus of the research; the publications were categorized based on the levels of broad subject (ecology and behaviour, taxonomy, evolution, conservation and climate change impact) at which the research was carried out.

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Entries based on 5 Himalayan states of Indian Himalayan Region

Most number of studies are from Jammu and Kashmir (Fig. 7.1) followed by Himachal Pradesh. Least number of studies was reported from Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

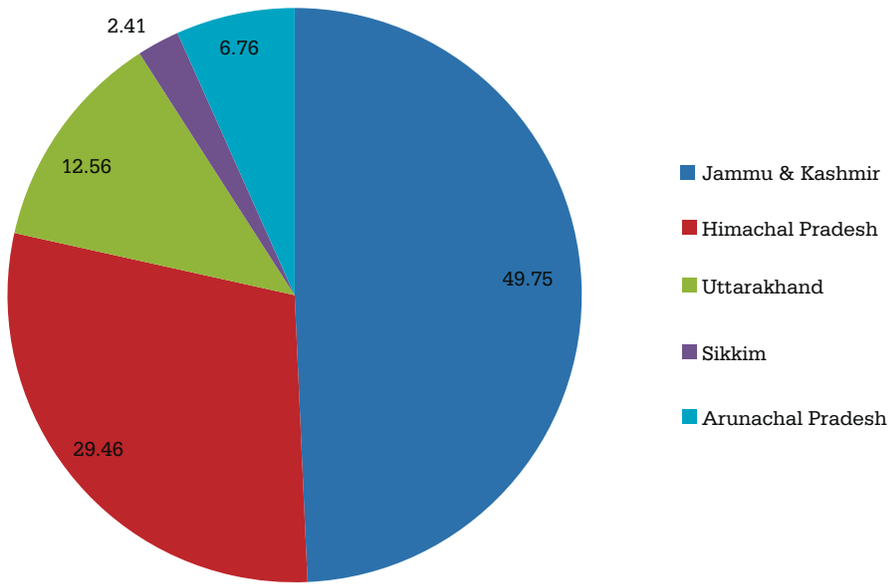


Figure 7.1 State wise distribution of publications

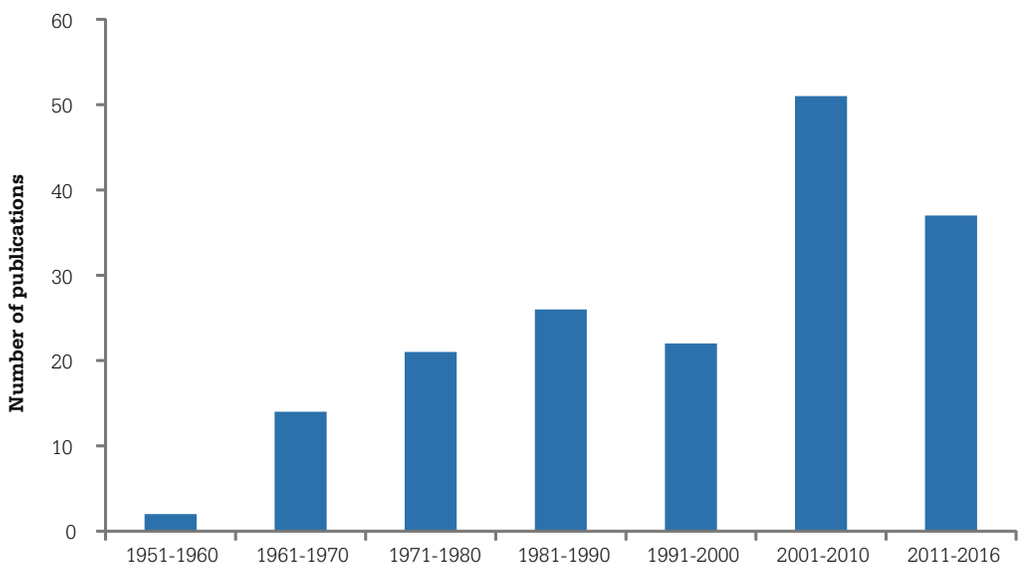


Figure 7.2 Temporal pattern of publications on nematodes of Indian Himalayan Region

The results show that there is an increase in nematode research during last decades. However, it is observed that there was a drop during the period from 1991-2000 (Figure 7.2).

Studies grouped based on subject focus

Based on the subject focus of the research the publications were categorized based on the levels of broad subject (ecology and behaviour, taxonomy, pathogencity, climate change impact and control) in Indian Himalayan region (Figure 7.3).

Research Gaps and Future Priorities

It is observed that most of the studies are result of random surveys in most of the states of IHR. Moreover, these studies are attempts to identify the important nematode pests of agricultural crops which show that considerable work has been done on nematodes residing in agricultural fields and studies on nematodes from forest ecosystems are very meagre. There is an increase in number of studies on nematodes during last decades which may be attributed to the fact that there is advancement in technology during this period. It is also observed that most of the work has been conducted on plant-parasitic nematodes while there are very few studies on bacteriovors, fungivores and omnivores nematodes. There are a large number of studies on ecology and behaviour theme followed by taxonomy, pathogenicity and their control. Studies on themes like genetics, climate change are needed.

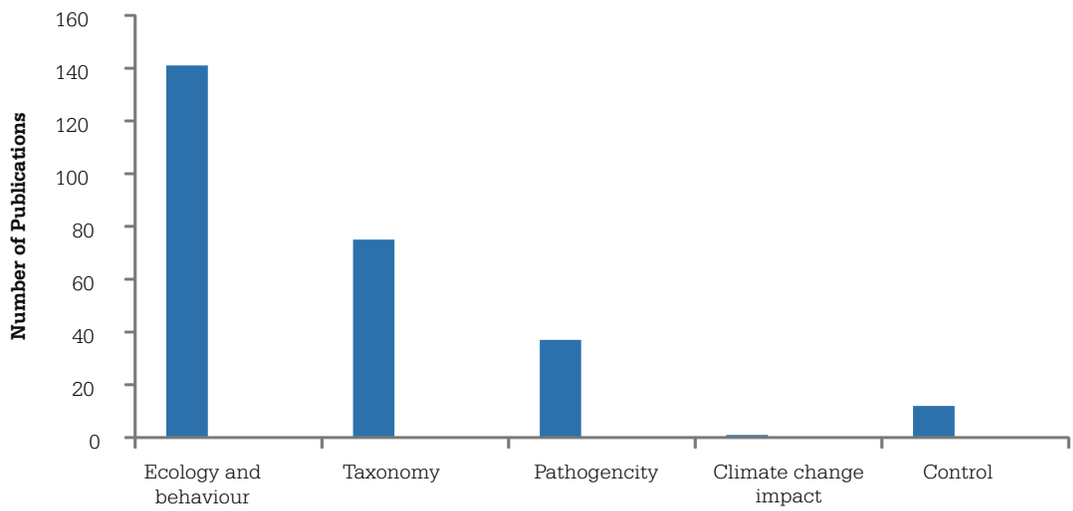


Figure 7.3 Number of publications on nematodes of the Indian Himalayan Region in different subject categories

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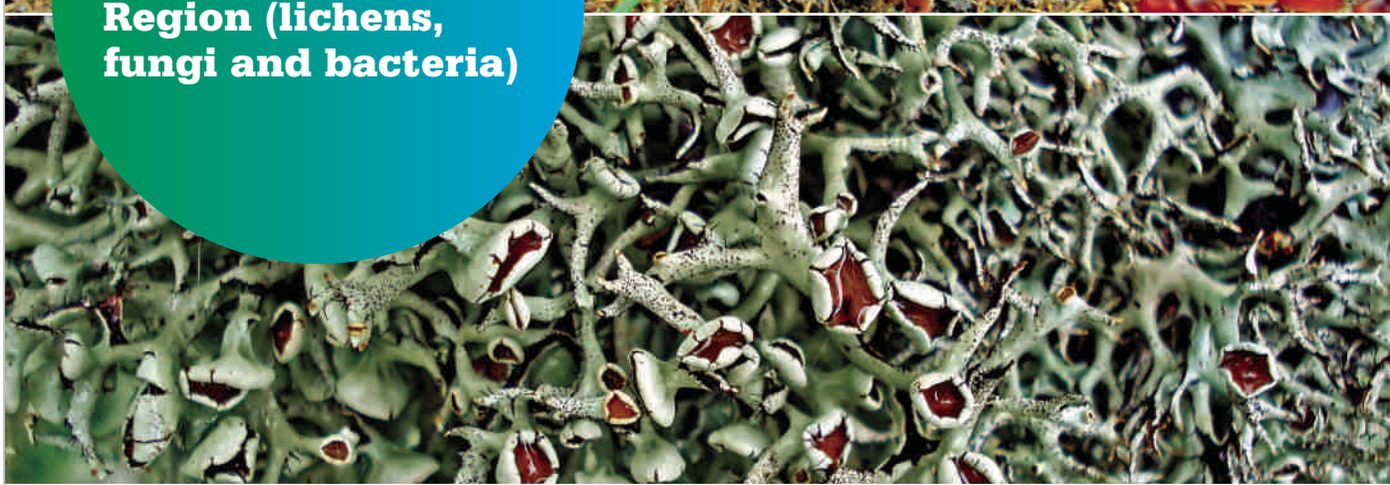
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Microflora of the Indian Himalayan Region (lichens, fungi and bacteria)









08

Bibliography on microflora (lichens, fungi and bacteria) of the Indian Himalayan Region

Introduction

Microflora play a fundamental role in the biogeochemical cycle of the earth, therefore maintaining balance of the basic support system of life. Microorganisms are beneficial in increasing the soil fertility and plant growth as they are involved in several biochemical transformation and mineralization activities in the soil. Lichens, fungi and bacteria are pioneer in the initial process of soil formation and ecosystem development. In the process of ecological succession these are primary colonizer of inorganic system or bare rock, secrete acids and initiate process of soil formation. They are important indicator of the ecosystem health and important for monitoring change in their surroundings. Soil fungi and bacteria play a key role in many essential processes such as organic matter decomposition and elemental release by mineralization. The vast metabolic diversity of soil microbes means their activities drive or contribute to the cycling of all major elements (e.g. C, N, P), and this cycling affects the structure and the functions of soil ecosystems as well as the ability of soils to provide services to people. In this chapter we compiled bibliography of the available literature on the microflora in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). We presented a brief about the coverage of studies along the Himalayan zone, trends of the publication from earliest available data and coverage in terms of the taxonomy, ecology and other relevant fields. The chapter is divided in to 3 taxa specific section followed by bibliography.

Methods

Web search engines such as Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Knowledge were used using the keywords and terms Himalaya, name of the Himalayan states including terms like microflora, microorganisms, soil bacterial/microbial diversity, lichens, bacteria and fungi. Old literature was extracted from the subject websites such as www.botanicus.org, www.archive.org, www.biodiversityheritagelibrary.org etc. Literatures were collected on various aspects of studies on lichen from Lichenology Laboratory and Library of CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow. All information were entered in Microsoft excel spreadsheet and organized into different categories such as literature available from six Himalayan States; their publication dates and subject focus of the research. The publications were categorized based on the broad subject of research such as taxonomy, ecology, genetics/genomics, conservation, and climate change. All analyses were carried out in excel spreadsheet to determine the trend of research over the decades, the emphasized research areas and knowledge gap.

1. LICHENS

Lichens, the mutualistic association of an alga (microalgae/cyanobacteria) and fungus are the most successful symbiotic relationship in nature. This peculiar association of the two symbionts makes lichens one of the most unique organisms on the earth, capable of inhabiting the extreme environmental condition and pioneer habitats. Lichens are most effective and reliable indicators of ecosystem functioning, environmental conditions and are sensitive to a wide variety of environmental stressors like habitat destruction, air pollution and climate change. They are various in growth forms such as crustose, foliose, squamulose, leprose, fruticose and dimorphic-squamulose, and grow on almost all kind of substrates with greater predominance in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions where diversity varies along the environmental gradients. In India the pioneer work on lichen was carried by the European botanists, the sporadic collections were sent to European countries for study. Detailed account of these studies has been published by D.D. Awasthi (Father of Indian Lichenology) (1965) in his publication "Catalogue of lichens' from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Ceylon". Previously, Singh (1964) enumerated 947 species of lichen in his publication "Lichens of India", but this publication was not much valuable than D.D. Awasthi (1965). During the last sixty years, a number of work published on various aspect of lichens by Indian and foreign

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lichenologists. Four institutions are mainly responsible for the present development and wealth of lichen in India, viz., Department of Botany, Lucknow University, Lucknow; Botanical Survey of India; Agarkar Research Institute, Pune and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

The Indian Himalayan region (IHR) exhibits abundant variety and luxuriant growth of subtropical-temperate-alpine lichens (Upreti 1998). The higher alpine habitats in the Himalaya also exhibit dominant terrestrial vegetation of lichens together with other herbaceous plants (Upreti 1998). Though lichens have great ability to survive in harsh environment but are most sensitive to microclimatic changes, thus they act as a natural sensor and successfully utilized as biological indicator of air quality and climate change studies. Quaraishi (1928) was probably the first Indian who recorded 35 species of lichens near Mussoorie in western Himalaya. In IHR different studies during last two decades were mainly performed by Lichenological Laboratory of CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow.

The scientific literature on lichens of the Indian Himalaya Region is available from dated back to mid 18th Century. Most of the studies in IHR were accomplished by CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow; Lucknow University and Botanical Survey of India. However, information on lichenological studies in IHR was not available on single platform. The present article comprises the information on available scientific literature on lichens of Indian Himalayan Region, particularly the trend of research with time and the knowledge gap.

Results and Discussion

The bibliography on lichen wealth of Indian Himalayan Region includes 309 unique entries covering a period of almost two centuries, starting from 1876 to 2016. We categorized the articles in three distinct ways: A) The first category was based on parts of five Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh) where the studies were carried out. B) The second category was based on their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped in 10-year intervals from 1876 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The third category was based on the subject focus of the research; the publications were categorized based on the levels of broad subject e.g. air pollution & climate change, Biochemistry and physiology, diversity and distribution, floristics, molecular biology, new records, new species, economic importance, ecology and lichenometry at which the research was carried out.

Geographic Distribution of Publications

Figure 8.1 shows that most of the publications on lichens were from Uttarakhand (156; >40%), when compared to other states of IHR. Only 54 studies were available on lichens in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, respectively. This could be possible inaccessible hilly terrain at northern range. In Eastern Himalaya, Sikkim (16%) stands highest number of studies and publication on lichens than Arunachal Pradesh (15%). The rugged, hilly, and largely inaccessible terrain, which is cut by many rivers and streams originating from higher Himalaya, has made lichen surveys in the eastern Himalayan region extremely difficult.

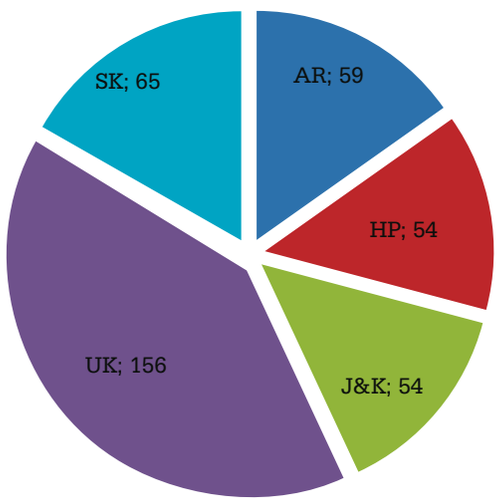


Figure 8.1 Percentage graphical representation of published work covering different aspects of lichen studies in five different states of Indian Himalaya. AR (Arunachal Pradesh); HP (Himachal Pradesh), J&K (Jammu and Kashmir); UK (Uttarakhand) and SK (Sikkim)

Temporal Pattern of Publications

With regard to the number of studies (Figure 8.2), only five articles had been published until the 1950. The increasing trend in publishing articles in the recent years, indicate the increased scientific efforts given on the lichen in IHR region. Indeed more than half of the studies were published from 2001 onwards. During the relevant period (2001-2016), the majority of these studies have been published in the national, international and regional journal covering different aspect of studies on lichens. Only five works were published as Ph.D. thesis, out of 309 citations presented in this chapter.

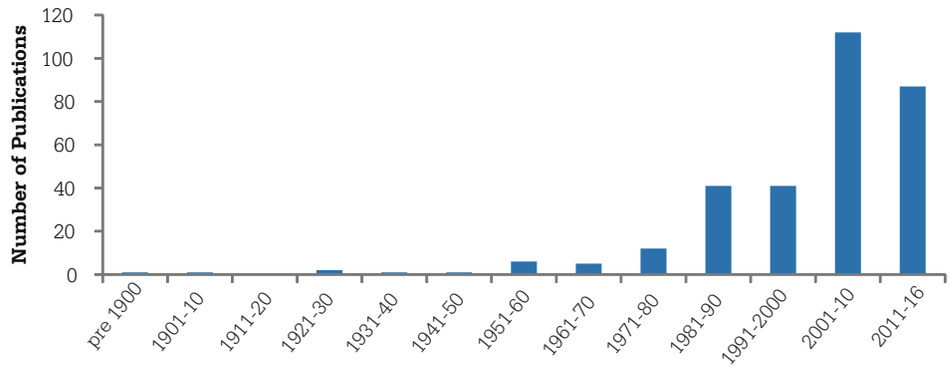


Figure 8.2 Temporal pattern of published work for lichens of Indian Himalayan region.

Publication by subject focus

Publications were categorized according to the broad subject of the study and subdivided in to following themes. The articles covering one or more categorized subject/focus areas e.g. new species as well as new generic record for country/region were treated as two different subject covered in one article (Fig. 8.3)

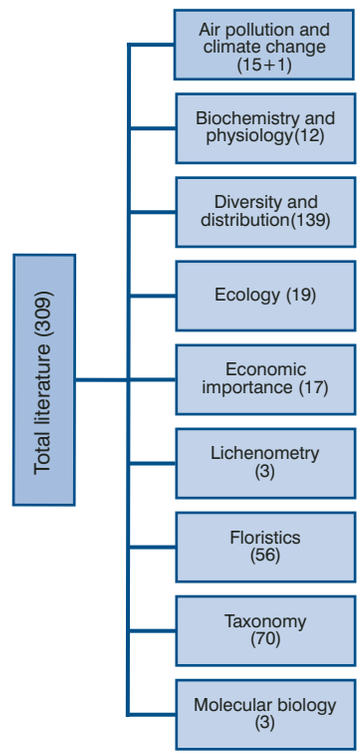


Figure 8.3 Publication on lichens by subject focus in IHR.

2. FUNGI

Fungi are one of the most important functional group of soil microbes and perform essential roles in the functioning of the ecosystem (Hawksworth et al. 1996; Sharma et al., 2015). Fungi live, multiply and die or disintegrate in the soil, as well play a pivotal role in nutrient cycling and thus they provide rich organic matter. Fungi are useful as indicators of environmental changes or disturbances resulting from natural or anthropogenic causes, such as elevated carbon dioxide levels and global warming (Sharma et al., 2015).In India, studies on fungal diversity in relation to habitat, climate and altitudinal gradient is rare (Pandey et al. 2006, Satish et al. 2007).This bibliography comprises the available studies fungi in Indian Himalayan Region, particularly the trend of research with time and the knowledge gap.

Result and Discussion

The bibliography on soil fungi of IHR includes 114 unique entries covering a period of almost 6 decades, starting from 1966 to 2016. We categorized the articles in three distinct ways: A) Parts of eight Himalayan states where the studies were carried out (Table 8.1). B) Their publication dates, in which the studies were grouped in 10-year intervals from 1966 to 2016; this enabled us to see the research trends and patterns. C) The subject focus of the research e.g. ecology, ethnomycolgy, taxonomy, biochemical analysis, climate change on which the research was carried out.

Table 8.1 State wise distribution of publications

State	No. of publications	Himalayan zone,IHR	No. of publications
Uttarakhand	47	Western Himalaya	9
Himachal Pradesh	21	Western Himalaya	4
Jammu & Kashmir	19	North-western Himalaya	2
Sikkim	8	Central Himalaya	2
West Bengal	3	Central Himalaya	
Arunachal Pradesh	1	Eastern Himalaya	

Temporal Pattern of Publications

Globally, there have been studies on soil fungi focusing effect of environmental changes apart from ecology, taxonomy and pathogenicity, biochemical analysis. But in Indian Himalayan Region there has been studies on ecology, ethnomycology, taxonomy and biochemical analysis. Temporal trend on publication shows that an increasing trend of publication over years with maximum being between 2011-2016 and least between 1961-1980 (Fig 8.4). The majority of publication between 2011-2016 focuses on diversity and distribution, new records of fungal species from different parts of IHR.

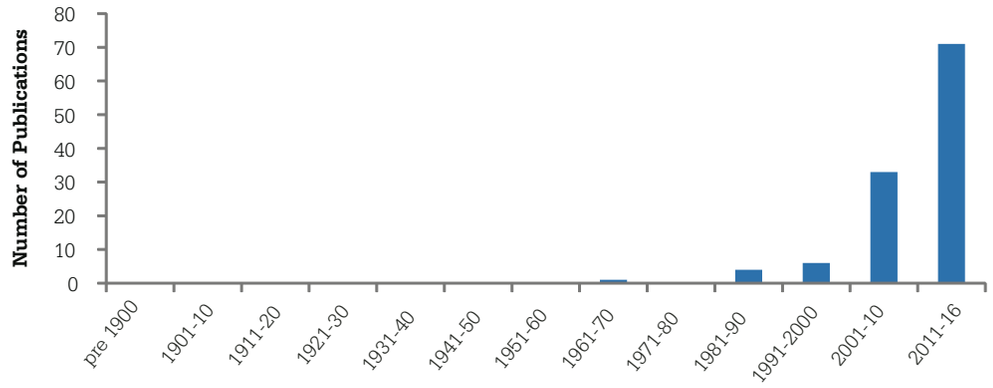


Figure 8.4 Temporal pattern of publication on soil fungi of Indian Himalayan Region

Publication by subject focus

The broad subject areas of publication are ecology, taxonomy, biochemical analysis, ethanomycology and climate change. Publications dealing with ecology mainly comprise functional, stress and community ecology. Taxonomic studies comprise isolation and characterization of soil fungi. Not a single study has been found on climate change (Fig. 8.5).

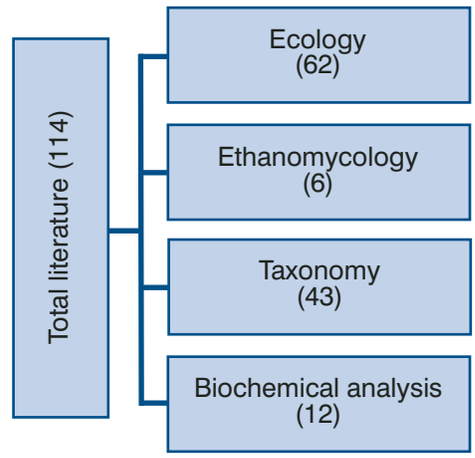


Figure 8.5 Publication on Fungi by subject focus in Indian Himalayan Region.

3. BACTERIA

Bacterial communities are the most abundant group of microorganisms present in soil. They play important role in bio-geochemical processes such as nutrient cycling, soil organic matter decomposition, nitrogen formation, soil structure formation (Prosser, 2007), and maintain required soil health for plant and microbial growth (Hill et al., 2000). Investigation of soil bacterial diversity in extreme environments has gained major attention globally due to their unique functional properties (Madigan, 2000). Indian Himalayan region (IHR) is a large reservoir of soil bacterial species. However, information on soil bacteria from this region is relatively sparse in comparison to other floral and faunal taxa. Previous studies on soil bacteria in IHR have mainly focused on isolation and identification of species from cold regions, agricultural fields and hot springs with characteristic properties beneficial for nutrient cycling, agriculture and biotechnological applications. Notable species identified include psychrotolerant phosphate solubilizing *Pseudomonas* spp. (Pandey et al., 2006; Vyas et al., 2009; Selvakumar et al., 2011), psychrotolerant plant growth promoting *Pseudomonas spp*. (Mishra et al., 2008; Selvakumar et al., 2009; Selvakumar et al., 2011; Suyal et al., 2014), *Rhizobium sp*. (Mishra et al., 2011), *Acinetobacter sp*. (Gulati et al., 2009), *Exiguobacterium spp*. (Kasana and Yadav, 2007; Selvakumar et al., 2010) and *Pantoea sp*. (Selvakumar et al., 2008), psychrotolerant *Serratia sp* (Tariq and Prabakaran 2010), stress tolerant *Bacillus sp*. (Das and Dangar 2008), fluorescent *Pseudomonads sp*. (Arora et al., 2008; Showkat et al., 2012; Sharma et al. 2014) and *Actinomycetes spp*. with antimicrobial properties (Kaur et al. 2008).

Bacterial diversity and functions across various land use and land cover classes such as agricultural lands, forest types, alpine meadows and hot springs in IHR have received fairly recent attention. Some studies have focused mainly on photoautotrophic Cyanobacteria a group known to be the first colonizer of mountain soil (Belnap and Lange, 2001). Microhabitats such as Neoproterozoic limestone, alpine meadows and glacial forelands, lakes and hot springs have been explored to determine Cyanobacterial role in nutrient availability for pioneer vascular plant growth (Venkatachala and Kumar, 1997; Chaudhary and Kumar, 2006; Pandey, 2010; Khare et al., 2010; Bhardwaj et al., 2011, Rehakova et al., 2011; Chowdhary et al., 2013; Singh et al., 2014; Singh and Yadvinder et al., 2015; Capkova et al., 2016). Analysis of western Himalayan hot spring bacterial diversity has revealed thermotolerant species with industrially important characteristics (Kumar et al., 2014; Verma et al., 2015; Pandey et al., 2015). Recently cultivable bacterial diversity in the eastern zone was studied for microbial biodiversity conservation for first time in the IHR (Lyngwi et al., 2013; Bhattacharjee et al., 2014; Joshi et al., 2015). Although there has been focus on soil bacterial diversity and conservation, less attention has been given to understand the impact of changing climate on functional aspects of bacterial communities in the IHR.

Recently, several authors have reported new species of bacteria from IHR, viz, a tetrathionate-oxidizing bacterium

Tetrathiobacter kashmirensis (Ghosh et al., 2005), novel *Actinobacterium* species isolated from cold regions Rhodococcus kroppenstedtii and Kocuria himachalensis (Mayilraj et al., 2006), a novel bacterial antagonist *Exiguobacterium acetylicum* strain 1P (Selvakumar et al., 2009), a Psychrophilic species *Janthinobacterium lividum* MMPP4 (Suman et al., 2015), a thermophile *Thermus parvatiensis* RLT sp. nov (Dwivedi et al., 2015). A psychrotolerant novel bacterium *Arthrobacter sp*. ERGS1, with prospective cold active industrial enzymes was reported from eastern Himalaya (Kumar et al., 2015).

The scientific literature on Himalayan soil bacteria is scantily available from dated back to late 19th century. A recently developed web based microbial database "NEMiD" provides information on cultivable soil bacterial diversity of eastern Himalayan region (Bhattacharjee et al., 2014). However, information on soil bacterial studies in entire IHR has not been compiled comprehensively. This chapter is an attempt to collate all published literature on soil bacteria in IHR. It highlights the trend of research with time and the knowledge gaps.

Results and Discussion

The bibliography on soil bacteria of Indian Himalayan Region includes 218 unique entries covering a period starting from 1992 to March 2016. The analysis reveals that existing literarture on soil bacterial research has mostly been published from western Himalayan states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (50, 58, 86, studies respectively) (Table 8.2, Figure 8.2). Eastern Himalayan states have shown growing research interest in soil bacteria in last 8 years (Table 8.1, Figure 8.2). However, it is only recently (last 6 years) soil bacterial research has rapidly increased in the entire IHR compared to the past (Table 8.2, Figure 8.6). This indicates that exploration of soil bacterial diversity from diverse ecological niches in the IHR is a very recent research area in comparison to other floral and faunal taxa.

Table 8.2 Available references on soil bacteria from six Himalayan states from 1990 till 2016.

Time period	No of literature published from six Himalayan states						Total in each interval
	J&K	HP	UK	WB	SK	AR	
1990 - 1995		2					2
1996 - 2000	1		1				2
2001 - 2005	1	2	3				6
2006 - 2010	5	16	25	2	1		49
2011 - 2016	43	40	55	5	11	12	166
Total literature	50	58	86	7	12	12	

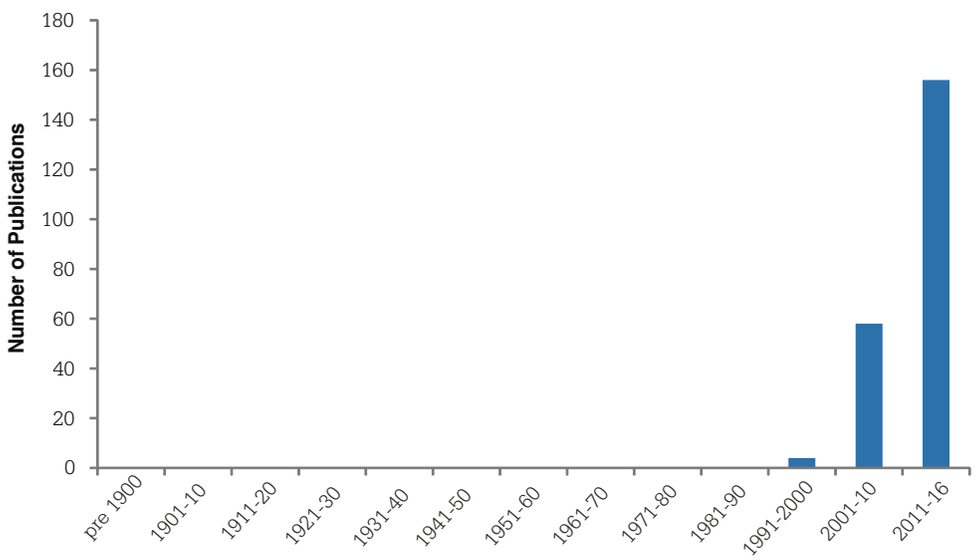


Figure 8.6 Temporal pattern of publication on soil bacteria of Indian Himalayan Region

Thematic coverage

Major subject focus on soil bacterial research has been on applied and functional research, taxonomy, ecology, bacterial genetics/genomics and biodiversity conservation (Fig. 8.7). Applied and functional research include investigation of soil bacterial diversity in different ecological niches along altitudinal gradients for isolation and identification of biotechnologically and agriculturally potential strains and novel species (Kasana and Yadav, 2007; Duraipandiyan et al., 2010; Bharti et al., 2010; Saba et al., 2012; Sharma et al., 2014; Kshetri et al., 2015). Biotechnological applications include identification of new pharmaceutical products (Kaushik and Chauhan, 2008), characterization of new industrially significant enzymes (Nawani and Kaur, 2007; Joseph et al. 2012; Rahul et al. 2013; Yadav et al. 2015) and new organisms that carry out novel processes (Kaur et al., 2008; Sharma et al. 2016). Many of the bacterial species identified from agricultural fields have displayed enhanced plant growth promoting activities (Mishra et al., 2008; Gusain et al., 2015).

Several bacterial communities from agricultural lands, hot springs, high altitude regions have been analysed for molecular markers such as 16S rRNA and nifH genes, for novel species identification, taxonomy/diversity analysis and conservation purpose (Singh et al. 2010; Salwan et al., 2010; Shivaji et al. 2011; Kumar et al., 2012; Rajwar et al., 2014; Yadav et al. 2015; Capkova et al. 2016; Soni et al., 2016). Genetic variability of functionally significant bacterial species have been analysed for molecular characterization (Sharma et al. 2005; Vyas et al., 2009; Verma et al. 2014). Some bacterial genomes have been sequenced from novel species isolated from extreme environments for better insight into their novel properties, such species are *Arthrobacteralpinus* ERGS4: 06, a yellow pigmented bacterium tolerant to cold and radiations (Kumar et al. 2016), *Chryseobacterium polytrichastri* ERMR1: 04, a psychrotolerant bacterium with cold active proteases (Kumar et al. 2015), *Arthrobacter sp*. ERGS1: 01, a putative novel bacterium with prospective cold active industrial enzymes (Kumar et al. 2015) and cellulase-producing psychrotrophic *Paenibacillus* strain, IHB B 3415 (Dhar et al. 2015).

Ecological studies conducted so far include bacterial population dynamics, impact of seasonal changes and degrees of slopes and aspect on bacterial population, effect of alien invasive plant species on bacterial species, impact of different land use and crop rotation, environmental interaction and survival strategies of bacterial communities (Shail et al. 1997; Chaudhary and Kumar, 2006; Das and Dangar, 2008; Selvakumar et al. 2009; Rasool and Nazima, 2011; Reshi et al., 2013; Arunkumar et al., 2013; Pandey, 2013; Singh et al., 2014; Swer et al., 2014; Solaiman et al. 2015). Although focus have been made to understand soil bacterial ecology in this region, limited attention has been given to understand the response of soil bacterial communities to changing climatic variables (Table 8.3). In order to address the threats of climate change in the IHR, it is essential to conduct long term research focused on soil bacterial community responses to changing temperature and precipitation across major eco-climatic regions and habitats.

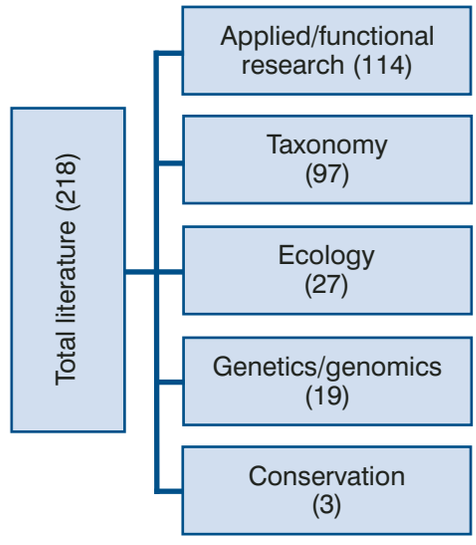


Figure 8.7 Number of publications on soil bacteria in different subject focus in IHR.

Table 8.3 The key past and future research priorities based on the current assessment

Subject Area	Key past research priorities	Research Gap and future priorities
Applied and functional research development	Species functional characterization, Agriculturally important function characterization, Industrially important enzymes characterization oxide from agricultural lands, requires much attention.	Bacterial processes involved in key greenhouse gases production, such as carbon dioxide emission from soil organic carbon degradation, methane production from wetlands and nitrous Method These processes contribute as well as respond rapidly to climate change (Singh et al., 2010). Characterization of bacterial enzymes involved in these processes will provide better understanding of climate change impacts in IHR.
Taxonomy	Species isolation, identification and characterization, Phylogenetic classification	Research focused at phylogenetic classification and characterization of bacterial communities with respect to changing temperature and precipitation in climate sensitive regions will provide valuable insights into microbial indicators of climate change (Allen et al., 2011).
Ecology	Species distribution Survival strategies Population dynamics Environmental interaction	Future research aimed at soil bacterial population dynamics, community composition, distribution and function under changing climatic variables in the IHR will provide indepth understanding of soil bacterial responses to environmental change (Evans et al.,2014).
Bacterial genetics / genomics	Genetic diversity Genome sequencing	Genome sequencing and genetic diveristy analysis of bacterial species in climate sensitive ecological niches in the IHR will improve mechanistic understanding of climate change impacts on bacterial regulation of ecological processses (Singh et al., 2010).
Conservation	Diversity conservation Cryo-preservation	Isolation and cryo-preservation of soil bacterial species from extreme climate sensitive region of IHR will help us in conserving species with unique properties.
Impact of climate change on bacterial communities	No studies conducted	–

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Department of Science & Technology
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